

Ancient Records
OF THE
Merchant Taylors' Company
of London



By
H. L. Hopkinson

1915



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REPORT ON THE
MERCHANT TAYLORS' COMPANY'S
RECORDS.

Report

ON THE

Ancient Records

in the possession of the

Guild of Merchant Taylors

OF THE

Fraternity of St. John Baptist

IN THE

City of London.

BY

Henry Lennox Hopkinson,

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Trinity College, Cambridge, and Inner Temple,

Master of the Guild for the Year 1910-11.



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St. John Baptist's Day, 1915.

MY DEAR MASTER,

I have now completed my report on the archives of the Merchant Taylors' Company.

It is a gratification to me that I am able to present it to the Court of Assistants of the Company before the completion of your term of office, as the subject is one in which you have always taken much interest.

I am, my dear Master,

Yours sincerely,

HENRY L. HOPKINSON.

ERNEST WOOLLEY, ESQ.,

Master of the Merchant Taylors' Company.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION 	I
ANCIENT MANUSCRIPT BOOKS 	6
CHARTERS	29
MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS, A... 	32
MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS, B... 	43
ANCIENT TITLE-DEEDS 	54
CONCLUSION 	97
APPENDIX A 	99
APPENDIX B 	108

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.

- Book.—Calendar of Manuscript Books in the possession of the Merchant Taylors' Company.
- Deeds.—Calendar of Ancient Title-Deeds in the possession of the Merchant Taylors' Company.
- Misc. Docs.—Calendar of Miscellaneous Documents in the possession of the Merchant Taylors' Company.
- Charters.—Calendar of Charters and Letters Patent in the possession of the Merchant Taylors' Company.
- C.M.—Minutes of the Court of Assistants of the Merchant Taylors' Company.
- Memorials.—Memorials of the Guild of Merchant Taylors of the Fraternity of St. John the Baptist in the City of London. By C. M. Clode, 1875.
- Early History.—The Early History of the Guild of Merchant Taylors of the Fraternity of St. John the Baptist, London. By C. M. Clode, 1888. 2 vols.
- Hallam.—History of England, new edition, 1872. 2 vols.
- Herbert.—The History of the Twelve Great Livery Companies of London. By William Herbert, 1837. 2 vols.
- Riley.—Memorials of London and London Life. By H. T. Riley, 1868.
- Stow.—Stow's Survey of London, edited by C. L. Kingsford, 1908. 2 vols.
- Strype.—Stow's Survey of London, edited by Strype, 1720. 2 vols.
- Cal. Wills.—Calendar of Wills in the Court of Husting, London, edited by R. R. Sharpe, 1889, 1890. 2 vols.
- Anc. Deeds.—Catalogue of Ancient Deeds preserved in the Public Record Office.
- Inq. p.m.—Inquisitiones postmortem.
- Letters and Papers.—Calendar of Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, of the reign of Henry viii.
- Hist. MSS. Comm.—Reports of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts.

A View taken of all the Ancient Books, Charters, Evidences and Papers of the Guild of Merchant Taylors of the Fraternity of St. John the Baptist in the City of London in the time of Ernest Woolley, Master, by me, Henry Lennox Hopkinson, an ancient master of the said Fraternity, Anno Domini, 1915.

INTRODUCTION.

THE Merchant Taylors' Company have in their possession a large number of ancient manuscript books, deeds and other documents dating from the fourteenth century onwards. As in the absence of a proper index they were not easily accessible, and, indeed, of some very interesting documents even the existence was not known, buried away as they were in old boxes and cupboards, covered with dust and in the utmost confusion, I obtained the sanction of the Master and Wardens to go through our records and prepare a descriptive catalogue or calendar of them.

I am not speaking of the more modern documents, of which there is an excellent index prepared by Mr. W. T. Essex, our late office clerk, whose services in this, as well as in other matters, were invaluable to the Company. I am referring only to ancient documents, the interest in which lies for the most part in their antiquarian or historical character, though many of them have also a considerable practical value as documents of title.

This calendar has now been completed, and I hope it may prove not only of antiquarian interest to members of the Company, but also of practical value in the Company's affairs. It is much more than a mere schedule of documents, which would have been quite a simple matter to prepare, and would have been useful in its way but of very little general interest.

The plan adopted has been to give, in the case of ancient books, particulars of the nature of their contents, and, in the case of deeds and other documents, a short abstract ; so that a person by referring to the calendar may, without going through the original documents, ascertain whether they contain any information on some subject in which he may be specially interested.

Subject to a few exceptions, no document of a later date than the year 1700 has been included, unless forming part of a previously existing series, nor any deeds prior to that date if relating to properties purchased subsequent thereto.

The index prepared by Mr. Essex includes particulars of expired leases granted by the Company, and though some of these belong to the seventeenth century I have not thought it necessary to include them in the present calendar.

The actual work of calendaring has been for the most part carried out by Miss M. Trice Martin and her sister, Miss K. S. Martin, daughters of the late Mr. Charles Trice Martin, formerly Assistant Keeper of the Public Records. We have been fortunate in having secured the services of these ladies, both of whom have had a large experience in this kind of work under the able tuition of their father. My share of the work has principally been to collect and arrange the documents to be calendared, but that has involved going through and sorting many hundreds of documents. I should like to express my gratitude for the encouragement and assistance I have received from the Clerk

of the Company, Mr. Edward Nash, without which I do not think I could have faced what has really been a somewhat formidable task.

So far as I have been able to trace, the last occasion on which a complete calendar was made was in the year 1689. This calendar is still in existence, and includes books, title deeds and other documents. (Book 13.)

There are also two existing earlier calendars of books, one made in 1609 and the other in 1618. (Book 12.)

In Appendix A. to this report the earlier calendars are compared with the new calendar for the purpose of shewing what books have been lost and how many have survived. It is satisfactory to know that a considerable number are still in existence.

There is, however, one book, the loss of which is a matter of great regret. This is a book described in the calendar of 1609 as "One other auntient booke in paper contayning the names of all the Masters and Wardens of this Company sithence the yere Anno Domini 1300, being the xxviiiith yere of King Edward the First, every one in succession untill this present yere 1609."

Mr. C. M. Clode, the historian of the Company, says : "On the 17th of April, 1865, the then Clerk produced a paper book (referred to in Herbert, vol. ii., p. 391) containing the names of the Masters and Wardens from 1300 to 1609, but this invaluable book is not to be found." (Memo-rials, p. 2, *note*.)

It is to be noted that this book is not included in the calendar of 1689. It is true Herbert includes it in a list of books which is evidently only an epitome from the calendar of 1609, but he expressly says he had not seen it. I can find no record in the minutes, of the book having been produced in 1865, but as Mr. Clode was a warden that year he may be presumed to be speaking from personal knowledge.

I have heard it said, but I do not know on what authority, that it was exhibited at the Hall on the occasion of some reception and has not been seen since, and the conclusion has been drawn that it was stolen. If so, it would be by some person with a knowledge of its antiquarian value. It may perhaps be buried away in some collection and may one day turn up again, as happened in the case of a book of plans of the Company's property made at the end of the seventeenth century, which was bought back in 1825. (Book 25.)

It has been commonly supposed that many of our old documents were destroyed in the Fire of London, but I do not believe that was the case, though some few may have been burnt and others lost in the confusion consequent on the fire. It is certain that, unlike most of the halls of the City guilds, our hall, though considerably damaged, was not destroyed. By the time it reached our hall the force of the fire was nearly spent. The church of St. Martin Outwich, only a few paces away, was hardly damaged at all.

I believe it was the neglect and ignorance of the eighteenth and the early part of the nineteenth centuries which were responsible for the loss of many documents. Owing to damp and vermin, particularly mice, documents may have become dilapidated or damaged, and would then be destroyed as worthless, especially if the persons responsible for their custody were unable to decipher the ancient script, and this would be more likely to happen on those occasions, which took place periodically, when the muniment room was being tidied up.

In December, 1822, the Clerk having reported "the ruinous and disordered state of the Company's deeds and papers," it was ordered by the Court "that he be at liberty to employ an able and intelligent person to put the same in order." (C. M., 17th December, 1822.)

The person he seems to have employed was his own clerk, Mr. Young, to whom in 1826 the Court voted £30 "for his trouble in assorting the several papers of the Company." What Mr. Young's qualifications for a work of this character were it is impossible to say, but from his position one could hardly suppose him to have possessed the necessary expert knowledge of ancient manuscripts.

In 1827, the Company's records, "being found in a very dilapidated state," were ordered to be repaired and rebound, the work being completed in June, 1827. (C. M., 27th April and 26th June, 1827.) There are a number of books with bindings evidently of this period.

The documents in the new calendar have been classified under five separate headings, viz. :—

1. Ancient Manuscript Books.
2. Charters.
3. Miscellaneous Documents, A., relating to the Company's affairs.
4. Miscellaneous Documents, B., not so relating, so far as can at present be ascertained.
5. Ancient Title Deeds.

I propose to give particulars of some of the more interesting or curious documents comprised in the calendar, and for that purpose it will be convenient to take them under their separate headings. Many of the documents in connection with Merchant Taylors' Hall and the property adjoining thereto are of considerable interest, but as they have been fully dealt with by me in the "History of the Site of Merchant Taylors' Hall," I do not propose to refer to them again in the following remarks, except so far as there may be anything new to say about them.

ANCIENT MANUSCRIPT BOOKS.

Book 1, the first in the calendar, though not the earliest in point of date, is a book containing the forms of the oaths to be taken by the master, wardens and other members and officers of the Company respectively, including "the Preste that syngeth for John Chirchman," "the Preste that syngeth for Thomas Carleton," and "the Lady Roos Chauntre Preest."

The distinction between the oath of "an hole broder admitted in to the lyvere of the Crafte" or liveryman, and the oath of "an oute broder of the fraternitie" or ordinary freeman, is to be noted.

The body now known as the Court of Assistants is spoken of as the "xxiv." Certain ancient minute books of the latter part of the fifteenth century refer to the meetings of the "twenty-four," and give a list of the "twenty-four" of the most trustworthy ("magis fidedignorum") in the time of William Buke (Master in 1488), from which it appears that the governing body was at that time limited in number to twenty-four. (Book 37.)

At a still earlier date, the number seems to have been sixteen, for in a set of very ancient ordinances which have been recently found (Misc. Docs., A. 2) there appears the following passage :—

"Also these ben the Ordynaunces that were made in the tyme of Philip Possell, Meister, John Westwode, Thomas Chichele, John Belhom and Pirs Savery, Wardeins of the said Fraternitie above-said, bi the good and wyse discrecions of the xvi. men bifor rehersed." Possell was Master of the Company in 1429. A later ordinance of

1436 is also stated as having been passed "by the good avyse of the xvi. men."

Then comes an ordinance of 1442, which is passed "by the good avyse of the xxiiii. byfor rehersed," from which it would appear that between the years 1436 and 1442 the number of the assistants was increased from sixteen to twenty-four. (Book 37.)

The ordinances of 1507 and 1613 continue to speak of the twenty-four assistants and counsellors, though, as a matter of fact, since 1562, when the present minute books commence, the number of members on the Court has generally exceeded that limit. (Book 2 and Charter 21.)

The corresponding body in the Bachelors' Company was known as the "sixteen men." (Book 6.)

An incomplete table of obits to be kept by the Fraternity is added at the end of the "Book of Oaths," and is stated to be "made by me William Duryvale, Clerk of the said Fraternitie in the yere of Our Lorde mcccclxxxxi. for a perpetuell remembraunce and knowleche of kepyng of all such obytes as ben accustomed to be kept by this Crafte."

This book is one of the recently discovered documents. It was on loose vellum sheets, but for its better preservation has now been bound up in book form.

The forms of oaths are earlier than any referred to in the "Memorials," and are the only ones containing the oaths of the chantry priests.

Book 2 is perhaps the most interesting the Company possesses. It is labelled "Ordinances," but this is a misdescription, for ordinances form only a part of its contents which include lists of indulgences and clauses as to the maintenance of priests (crossed through after the Reformation), copies of the bull of Pope Calixtus iii. granting a licence for a chapel at "Tailleurs Hall," and of the award of

Sir Thomas Billesden in the matter of the dispute with the Skinners' Company, besides other documents too numerous to refer to more specifically here, but which are fully particularized in the calendar. Copies or translations of many of them are to be found in the "Memorials."

Book 3 contains the ordinances of 1613 and 1661.

Book 4 contains treasury accounts from 1489-1503 with notes of payments made in connection with the obtaining of Henry viith's charter to the Company, and includes early inventories of plate, jewels, etc.

There is also an account of plate "delivered by way of preste" in 1502.

It was in that year that Henry vii. demanded a subsidy on account of the marriage of his daughter, Margaret, to the king of Scotland, which Parliament refused to grant. It may be that it was in consequence of this refusal that the "preste" was made, in the form of a "benevolence." (Hallam ii., 13.)

Book 5, "The Memoriall or Ledger Booke," contains particulars of lands given to the Company, with the names of the benefactors. It was made in the year 1578, and "was perfeighted by the dilligente serche and collection of Mr. Michael Flemynge of Lyncoln's Inne, Stewdente of the Lawe, upon the perusinge of all the evidences belonginge to this howse."

The second entry relates to the conveyance in 1392 of the site of the Hall by Simon Wynchecombe and his co-trustees to the Master and Wardens of the Company, after a licence in mortmain had been obtained, "but yt is to be notid that the said Londes have belonged to the Companie of the Merchaunttaillours by way of feoffmente upon truste ever sythens decimo nono of Kinge E. 3."

This would fix 1345 (19 Edward iii.) as the date of the acquisition of the site of the Hall by the Company, and, I think, finally disposes of the idea, based on some remarks in Stow's "Survey of London," that the site was acquired for the Company by John de Yakeslee in 1332. For the reasons given in the "History of the Site of Merchant Taylors' Hall," I think that Yakeslee purchased the property on his own behalf. It was in 1345 that he sold it to John Aystwick, who in turn conveyed it in 1347 to certain trustees for the Company, but if the date, 19 Edward iii., is correctly given in the "Memoriall or Ledger Booke," the purchase by Aystwick must have been made upon trust for the Company.

Book 6 is the minute book of the Bachelors' Company, and is interesting as the sole remaining record of the transactions of a body which was an offshoot from the Merchant Taylors' Company, and which ceased to exist at the close of the seventeenth century. For an account of this Company see the "Memorials," p. 514, and the "Early History," vol. i., chapter 3. Mr. Clode did not know of the existence of this book, as he was under the belief that all the records of the Bachelors' Company had been lost or destroyed.

The following additional notes may be of interest.

It was originally known as the "Yoman Company," but the name was changed to that of the Bachelors' Company in 1488 (see Book 37, vol. ii., fol. 4b). The ancient set of ordinances above referred to (Misc. Docs., A. 2) speaks of the yoman tailors as servants of the Mistery, "*servientes de Mistera Yoman taillours nuncupati.*"

The question of the status of the Bachelors' Company was raised in a Chancery suit brought in the year 1692 by the Attorney-General on the relation of certain members of

that Company against the Master and Wardens of the Merchant Taylors' Company with regard to the administration of the trusts of the will of William Say, who bequeathed to the Wardens of the Bachelors' Company a yearly rent-charge of £6 10s. *od.*, arising out of tenements in the parishes of St. John Walbrook and St. Mary Abchurch. (Misc. Docs., A. 17 (5)—(12).)

In their answer the Master and Wardens alleged that the Bachelors' Company were not originally any part of the constitution of the Merchant Taylors' Company, that the government of the freemen of the Company had time out of mind been vested in the Master, Wardens and Assistants, but owing to the great amount of business of the Company they had appointed four persons by the name of Wardens' Substitutes of the Bachelors' Company, and added sixteen men to assist them in the performance of such matters as the Court of Assistants thought fit to entrust them with, but that in 1662 or 1663, on account of irregularities committed by them, the Court of Assistants did wholly dismiss them.

There are no papers to show whether any final decree was ever made in the suit, nor is there a record of any such at the Record Office where search has been made, but from Misc. Docs., A. 17 (13), relating to a suit for the recovery of the rent-charge, which was brought by the Master and Wardens against Zouch Watson, the owner of the tenements charged, it appears that the suit of the Attorney-General was still depending in 1704. By a decree made in the latter suit, the defendant was ordered to pay the rent-charge in future to the Master and Wardens. They continued to receive it intermittently for many years till, finally, after the year 1771-2, when it was twenty-five years in arrear, it disappears from the Company's accounts.

Yoman or bachelors' companies were a common feature of the middle ages, both in England and on the Continent,

for instance, the guild of the Tailors of Exeter had their "Feleshyppe of the Bachelerys," and many of the London guilds had such companies associated with them.

Dr. Louis Brentano, a leading authority on guild life in the middle ages, in his essay on the history and development of guilds (incorporated in Toulmin Smith's "English Gilds"), gives an interesting account of these subsidiary associations as they existed on the Continent. In Germany the name applied to them was "Jung-Geselle," a word meaning bachelor. The name "yoman" first appears in the City Books about the end of the fourteenth century. Riley thinks that the name has no connection with our present word "yeoman," but is derived from the words "young man." (Riley, p. 542, note 3.)

These bachelor companies seem to have consisted for the most part of workmen or journeymen who had not yet risen to the position of masters. The same causes which led to the formation of the religious and craft guilds, namely, the need of combination for mutual support, comfort and protection, brought about the formation of these bachelor companies. They succumbed to the economic changes which took place in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in consequence of the great influx of workmen from outside ("forreins" or "forreigners," as they were called, because they were not citizens, and therefore owed no allegiance to any guild), against whose competition the masters' guilds were no longer able effectively to protect their freemen.

Book 7 contains particulars of pageants in the mayoralties of Sir Thomas Offley, Sir William Harper and Sir Thomas Rowe in the sixteenth century.

We are indebted to Richard Langley, who was Clerk of the Company from 1594 to 1612, for the preservation and

orderly arrangement of the Company's records existing in his time. In the Court Minutes of 8th August, 1608, it is stated that Langley "made relation of extraordinary services" rendered to the Company for which he prayed allowance, viz. :—

"Writing a book being a collection or abstract of evidences concerning the Revenue of the Company." (Book 8.)

"Enlarging of the Book of Wills of benefactors to the Company." (Book 9.)

"Making a book of Sir Thos. White's material Statutes concerning the Company's Schoole with a translation of the same into English and entering the Comp. orders for government of their schools into the same booke." (Book 10.)

"A booke of the Company's ch^{re} with a translation thereof into English." (Book 11.)

"A booke of contributions and loans for provision of corne and other loans made by the Company."

"A large booke being an alphabetical collection of all the Freemen of the Company." (Book 15.)

"An abstract of all the leases of the Company wherein may presently be knowne the beginning and ende of every Lease." (Book 14.)

"The whole proceedings and order when the Kings Ma^{ty} the noble Prynce and Greate Lords dyned here."

Of the above-mentioned books, nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, 14 and 15 still remain.

"The booke of contributions and loans" is not in existence, but, being of a transitory character, would be superseded by Book 12, which was made in 1609, and deals with similar matters.

The proceedings in connection with the banquet to James i. are not in the form of a book, but are set out in

full in the Court Minutes of 16th July, 1607. They are printed in the "Memorials," pp. 147 and following.

The documents of Langley's time are noticeable for the extreme neatness and beauty of the writing. I think the writer was probably George Lull, clerk to Langley and his successor, Richard Baldock; and I come to this conclusion from the fact that the writing in the Company's books remains the same after Langley's retirement, and that the same beautiful writing appears in the minutes of the Bachelors' Company after the appointment of Lull to be deputy clerk of that Company in consequence of the "age and ymbecillity" of their clerk, Roger Silverwood.

Book 8 is the "Evidence Book," which contains copies, abstracts or short particulars of the title-deeds, or "evidences" as they were then called, of all properties at that time belonging to the Company. It was made in pursuance of an order of the Court of Assistants, dated the 19th of January, 1604-5, "that a booke of collections made by Mr. Wright of the Companies evydences when he was clark" (1587-1594) "shall be faire ingrossed in vellam by the Common Clark with such further addicions as shall be requisite."

Book 9 is the book of wills of benefactors, now generally known as "The Wills Book." It is evident from the style of the handwriting of the earlier entries, some of which cannot be later than the beginning of the sixteenth century, that the book was commenced long before Langley's time.

Book 12 contains the calendars of books made in 1609 and 1618, to which I have already referred. That of 1609 was prepared by Langley. This book also contains inven-

tories of plate, furniture, pictures, etc., including those belonging to the Bachelors' Company.

Book 13 contains the calendar of books and documents made in 1689.

Book 15 is the Freeman's List. It is in two volumes and purports to contain a list of all persons admitted to the freedom of the Company from the year 1530 down to the end of 1909, but it is very incomplete so far as the earlier entries go, that is to say, down to the admissions in Langley's own time, after which the book becomes a contemporary record, but is still not free from omissions and errors. It is evident from a comparison with the entries in the Company's Minute Books and Account Books that, in the earlier years, many scores of names have been omitted and others incorrectly inserted or wrongly spelt owing to carelessness on the part of the copyist. It sometimes happens that when, according to the minute book, a master presents on the same day two apprentices for admission to the freedom, only one name is entered in the list. Sometimes the entry in the minute book runs that A. B. presented and made free his apprentice, C. D., and sometimes it is the other way round, that C. D. was made free by A. B. ; but the copyist has, in many cases, entered in the list whichever name happened to come last, whether that of master or apprentice. The numerous mistakes, coupled with the fact that the names are entered in the list chronologically under their initial letters only, make a search both unreliable and laborious.

A complete lexicographical list of freemen from the earliest times, so far as the information can be obtained from our records, is now in course of preparation, and will be very

useful in answering the inquiries which are being continually made for genealogical or historical purposes.

Book 16 is a book labelled "Acts of Common Council, 1638." The title does not convey much information, but the contents recall the great constitutional struggle in the time of the first two Stuarts in connection with forced loans to the Crown. The first item is a copy of the minutes of Common Council of the 22nd of January, 1617, granting a loan of £100,000 to James i. Then follow the minutes of seventeen meetings of Common Council in connection with a loan of £60,000 to Charles i. The letter of request for the loan points out "howe greate charges and with what expences the late kinge hathe begunne and his Majesty hath pursued the preparing of his Royal Fleete for the safety of this Kingdome and the generall good of all Christendome" "and yet nevertheless both his Majesty's care and greate expence are like to prove fruitless unless the summe of fourescore thousand poundes may be procured for the furnishing and finishing of this fleete and enterprise." The loan, with interest at 8 per cent., is to be secured by mortgage of the King's "best landes." The course adopted in connection with these loans appears to have been that the City borrowed upon the security of their "common bonds" from private lenders, and then advanced the money so borrowed to the King. Lands of the yearly value of £12,496 6s. 6d. were accordingly conveyed to the City of London upon trust to sell the same and out of the proceeds to repay the loans to the King or his predecessor; the surplus, if any, to be paid into the Exchequer. It appears that proceedings in the Court of Exchequer were subsequently taken by the Attorney-General for an alleged breach of trust by the City in connection with the sale of these lands, which, it was claimed, had been fraudulently disposed of at

less prices than might have reasonably been obtained. (Misc. Docs., A. 12.)

It will be remembered that it was a similar attempt to raise loans in other parts of the kingdom, which brought about the refusal of Hampden to contribute and his subsequent arrest by warrant of the Privy Council, with all that followed therefrom.

Book 17 is a curious assortment of documents, among which may be specially mentioned :—

A copy of a royal charter to the town of Shrewsbury and the inhabitants of Forriett Monachorum, “lately incorporated with it,” 20th April, 1586.

A bond from the original East India Company to the Master and Wardens of the Merchant Taylors’ Company to secure the payment of £2,080.

Many copies of letters to the “Deputy Assis-
tauntes & Fellowship of Merchaunt Adventurers of
England resident in Hamborough” (Hamburg),
“Stood” (Stade in Hanover?), or “Middlesburg”
(Middelburg in the Netherlands), requesting them to
admit sundry apprentices of the Merchant Taylors’
Company, “as an absolute free brother.” This asso-
ciation between the two Companies has an historic
interest and seems to indicate that a person who had
served his apprenticeship with a member of the
Merchant Taylors’ Company was, on being properly
recommended, and without any further apprenticeship,
accepted as a member of the Merchant Adventurers’
Company trading abroad.

On the fly-leaf is scribbled a parody of the form for
setting over of apprentices, in which an unnamed apprentice
is set over to serve the remainder of his term “with Knevett
Rawlett, citizen and milksop of London, using the art of

head-master." Knevett Rawlett was the son of the head-master of the Company's school at Wolverhampton, and was an under-master at the Merchant Taylors' School in London in 1660. Perhaps the wag who wrote the parody was a former pupil of his.

Book 18 contains the accounts from 1626 to 1629 relating to the Ulster Plantation, a subject to which I shall refer more fully later on. (See p. 36.)

Book 20 is a "View Book" of the Company's properties for the period from 1643 to 1664, with a few later entries. It gives dimensions and minute particulars of the properties inspected.

Book 21 is "The Booke of Accomptes of the Companies Stocke of Corn" from January, 1638, to August, 1642, and is interesting as shewing the then current prices of wheat, etc. The price of wheat seems to have varied from 28s. to 44s. a quarter. The price of 44s. would have been high for wheat in England in recent times, until the outbreak of the present great war. At this price the Company sold their surplus wheat to the "Morocco Ambassador." Wheat for which the Company gave from 35s. to 38s. they sold in 1638 at 42s. "for the provision of the Kinges Majesty's Navy."

The price of barley and rye was proportionately high in comparison with the prices prevailing in modern times. There does not seem to be anything exceptional in the particular period under review to account for these prices for there are numerous entries in our Minute Books, Account Books and other records shewing correspondingly high prices paid for corn in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. When these prices are compared with the wages paid during

the same period for labour, of which we have also many records (see p. 28), one is able to realise the terribly hard conditions under which the poor must have lived and what an important element in the lives of many the dole charities, in the form of periodical distributions of bread, must have been.

All who are familiar with the history of the City guilds are aware of the system under which they were required, under precepts from the Lord Mayor, to make provision against periods of dearth by laying up a stock of corn. The guild in its turn, if its corporate funds were insufficient for the purpose, called on its members to contribute according to their means. I wish to emphasize the fact, which I think our records clearly prove, that such contributions by our members were treated not as a tax, but as in the nature of loans to the Company to be repaid out of the proceeds of sale of the corn. (See p. 27.)

There are many entries in the minutes which shew that when a member died, his representative was repaid the amount of his contribution out of the corporate funds. I want to draw attention to this fact, because in the evidence before the Royal Commission on the City guilds, there seemed to be an attempt in certain quarters to regard the assessment for corn as in the nature of a tax, the guild being merely regarded as the medium through which the tax was assessed. There might or might not be a loss, or there might be a profit, on any particular transaction, which would of course depend, as in the case of any other kind of merchandize, on the price paid and the price received for the corn; for instance, the account for the year 1638 shews a net profit of £25 15s. 3d. from dealings in corn.

Another fact worthy of notice is that much of the corn was foreign grown, imported from places on the Continent as far away as Danzig.

Book 22 is a volume labelled "Copies of Leases, 1667, 1669," in which are incorporated a number of awards made by the Commission of Judges sitting at Clifford's Inn to deal with claims arising out of the Fire of London. The object of the Commission was to adjust the loss as equitably as possible between owners, lessees and other persons interested, without too strict an adherence to their legal rights and liabilities.

The effect on the Merchant Taylors' Company was that they were compelled to renew for long terms of years at small ground rents and without the usual fines or premiums the leases of tenements which had been burned down, the obligation to rebuild being thrown on to the lessees. As a result for many long years until these leases fell in, the Company's resources were greatly crippled.

This book also contains a number of bonds, awards and other documents, including an order of the Lord Protector Cromwell and his Council that no proceedings should be taken against the Earl of Northumberland and others in respect of their bond for securing the repayment of a loan from the City of £50,000, Parliament having declared the same to be a public debt of the Commonwealth.

Book 24 is a book of plans of the Company's property made in the year 1680 by John Oliver and William Leybourne, two surveyors who were much employed by the City in the survey of London after the Great Fire. Leybourne's name appears on a map to be seen in the London Museum, shewing the extent of the destruction caused by the fire.

Book 25 is a similar book, made in the years 1694 and 1695 from a survey taken by Captain John Stad by the Company's order.

The two last-mentioned books of plans are valuable records, as they shew the dimensions and boundaries of the Company's property at the date when the plans were prepared, but they are not free from errors.

Book 26 is the "Book of Presentations" and is a register of the distinguished persons who have been honorary members of the Company beginning with Edward iii. It is usual to speak of them as honorary members, but the expression is not altogether accurate for many of the earlier names on the list are those of persons who paid the ordinary fine on admission like everybody else.

The book was written up in 1677 by "Mr. Smith, the writing master of the Company's school," pursuant to an Order of the Court of Assistants, and is still in use. The names entered by him are in letters of gold and according to rank. Since 1677 the book has been signed by each honorary member on his admission.

It is described in the calendar of 1689 as "a guilt leather book containing noblemen's names free of this Company." Unfortunately the gilt leather binding has given place to a commonplace mid-Victorian binding of velvet.

Book 27 reminds one of the political and religious controversies of the seventeenth century. It is a book containing disclaimers of the obligation of the oath called "the Solemn League and Covenant," the declarant stating that "I hold that there lies no obligation upon me or any other person from the Oath commonly called the Solemn League and Covenant, and that the same was in itself an unlawful oath and imposed upon the subjects of this Realm against the Known Lawes and Liberties of the Kingdom." There are a number of signatures attached.

Books 28 to 31 are labelled "Benefactors' Gifts." They contain short particulars of gifts and bequests to the Company.

Books 34 and 35 are two catalogues of books in the School library. The earlier one gives a list of the names and contributions of those who gave money or books, and is dated 1662. The other appears to be about a hundred years later.

It would be interesting to compare these with the present School library catalogue to see if any of the old books still remain.

Book 36 contains a number of ancient forms of writs in use about the time of Queen Elizabeth.

Book 37 consists of two volumes of ancient minute books, containing minutes of meetings of the Master and Wardens, of "the twenty-four," now called the Court of Assistants, and of "the whole commonalty." Volume i. covers the period from April, 1486, to June, 1488, and is evidently, from the numbering of the folios, a part only of a much larger book. According to the calendar of 1689 the book commenced in 1459 and ended in 1488. Volume ii. commences in June, 1488, and ends in August, 1493.

Books 38 comprise the present series of Minute Books, commencing in 1562, and is complete to date, except for the period from 25th July, 1654, to 20th May, 1663. An index of the contents of the earlier volumes is in course of preparation so as to render them more easily available for reference. There is already in existence an index of the later volumes. The name "Court of Assistants" first occurs in 1565. Prior to that date, the expression used for meetings of the Court

is "Assemblies of the Master and his Wardens and of others the right worshipful persons, assistants and councillors." What are now spoken of as "meetings of Master and Wardens" were formerly known as "Ordinary Courts."

Besides the minutes of the meetings of Ordinary Courts and Courts of Assistants, there are included in these volumes the minutes of the Quarterly Meetings at which the whole body of the Livery were summoned to attend. The minutes of Quarterly Meetings no longer appear in 1663, and it may therefore be presumed that these meetings had been discontinued at some date after the year 1654. As the only business transacted at these meetings consisted, after prayers had been said, of the reading through of the wills of benefactors and of the Company's ordinances and the ordinances of the School, the proceedings must have been sufficiently dull to justify the meetings being discontinued for lack of attendance of the livery. The quarterly dinners, however, which followed the meetings continued to be patronised and are still held.

Books 46 are the account books of the Company, commencing in the year 1398.

Volume i. is the earliest book in the possession of the Company and contains the accounts for the years 1398-1445. The watermarks in the paper on which this volume is written are very varied, and worthy of notice by anyone interested in the early history of paper-making in Europe. Watermarks first came into use in the century in which this book was made.

The accounts for the years 1445-53, 1484-1545, 1557-69, 1648-52 and 1659-63 are missing, otherwise the accounts are complete to the present time, but some of the entries in the first three volumes are illegible and many folios in volume iii. are missing.

Down to the year 1821, when a more modern system of book-keeping was adopted, the accounts are divided into three separate headings, namely, the accounts of the master and the accounts of the two renter-wardens respectively, the latter officers accounting for the rents of the Company's properties, which for the purposes of administration were divided into the east and west portions, the upper renter-warden being responsible for the west and the under renter-warden for the east.

In the fly-leaf of volume ii. covering the period 1453-1468, is a copy of the following ancient prescription for a pill :—" Ad faciend' Pil' aur' R' aloes cicatrine unc' mirr' unc' di'."

Books 47 and 48 comprise draft accounts for some of the missing years of the seventeenth century.

Scattered about in various old boxes were a number of loose papers, many of which are of considerable interest. These have been collected together, placed upon slips and bound up in two volumes. One volume contains wages-sheets and builders' accounts of the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, principally in connection with work done at the Hall. The other volume comprises miscellaneous papers, to some of which I should like to draw special attention.

1600-1666. Original Mayor's precepts or orders ; for the provision of corn, the attendance of members of the Company at royal processions, contributions towards loans to the Crown, and other matters.

1575. Inventory of goods and apparel in the dwelling-house of Dame Margaret Harper, widow of Sir William Harper, founder of Bedford Grammar School, Master of the Company in 1553, and Lord Mayor in 1561.

1637. A notice to attend at the Attorney-General's chambers in the matter of a difference between the City of London and the "new corporation," signed by Sir John Bankes, then Attorney-General and afterwards Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and Sir Edward Littleton, Solicitor-General, afterwards Chief Justice of the Common Pleas and subsequently Lord Keeper of the Great Seal.

1648. An order by warrant from Lord Fairfax, the General of the Parliamentary army, for the Master and Wardens to supply at Merchant Taylors' Hall six flock beds, large enough to hold two men each, with the proper number of sheets, blankets, etc. The account for the same, amounting to £12 19s. 0d., is annexed.

1651. An invitation to Mr. Warden Alport to dine at the Hall "in your gowne faced with budg."

1662. A list of pewter.

1697. Order by the Mayor's Court that no person be admitted to the livery of any of the companies, unless he has an estate of £1,000 in the case of the twelve great companies, and of £500 in the case of the minor companies.

1725. Agreement by John Sherlock that if the buckhound sold by him to Joseph Savage for 31s. 6d. "prove not a right Good dogg and a true hunting Buckhound," the money will be repaid.

1758. Printed circular stating that the only constant stage-carriers (to the places thereunder-mentioned) set out from the White Bear in Basinghall Street. "Note, The above Inn is reckoned to be one of the compactest Inns in London for Gentlemen, Tradesmen, etc. Kept by James Dobson."

Endorsed is a receipt, dated 27th May, 1758, "one box and one parcel to go by Pickford."

1789. A beautifully drawn ground plan of Great Crosby School.

1796. A letter from the Lord Mayor to the Clerk of the Company, thanking them for their vote of £10,000 for the public service, with which the writer would acquaint the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

1810. Articles of apprenticeship of Hannah Waller, daughter of William Waller, to Jacob Bonwick, "citizen and barber."

A number of undated petitions of the time of Elizabeth and James i., to the Master and Wardens, including :—

A petition by certain artificers of the Company, praying that the course taken by the Lord Mayor against foreigners may be effectually prosecuted.

A petition by Thomas Woodde, who "sythens the fyrst tyme that he saw the Ryght Woorsypphull Companye hath not ceased to praye for the prosperytye of the same, and now in his owlde dayes, seinge God hathe so provyded to brynge hym so neare the place as he so dearelye hath loved and to make hym under chapplayne of your Churche wheareof you are patrons" (St. Martin's Outwich). He prays that he may be allowed to have the rooms in the almshouse "the which one mother Margarett leafte by death."

A petition by Francis Vernon for a reduction of his rent in consideration that part of the rent is a hogshead of Gascoine wine yearly for the feast, and wine is more than double the price it was when the lease was made.

A petition by Ralph Ledsham and another for reward for services rendered in searching out foreign tailors, with a statement attached shewing the numbers then resident in the City.

A number of bills for dinners and provisions supplied to the Company from 1594 onwards.

The following items from the bill for an audit dinner held on the 14th August, 1594, may be of interest :—

Beef, 16*d.* a stone, or 2*d.* a lb.

Ox tongues, 1*s.* each.

Butter, 4*d.* a lb.

Eggs, three a penny.

Geese, 2*s.* 4*d.* each.

Capons, do.

Pullets, 1*s.* 8*d.* each.

Rabbits, 7*d.* each.

Powder sugar, 9½*d.* a lb.

Fine sugar, 1*s.* 2*d.* a lb.

Pepper, 3*s.* 4*d.* a lb.

At a view dinner held on the 11th March, 1594-5, oysters appear. "These have not ben used heretofore but were nowe appointed specially by our Mr. and Mr. Prockter." As there is no charge for them, it is presumed that the Master, Mr. John Churchman, and Mr. Prockter provided them at their own expense. This dinner, being in Lent, consisted of fish. A fresh salmon cost 19*s.* 4*d.*, pike 3*s.* 2*d.* each, and carp 2*s.* each.

Tobacco and pipes first appear on the bills in 1647.

Strawberries appear in 1649 at 10*d.* a quart.

A number of wine bills from 1677. The earliest account is for claret, 4*s.* a gallon, canary 8*s.* a gallon, "white wine" 4*s.* a gallon. In 1730, "Lafitt French wine" cost 50*s.* a dozen.

1602. An account for plate mended, with descriptions of the articles, and for work done to the garlands used by the master and wardens on their election day. Four suns are fixed to the "great garland" (the master's), and four stars each to the other four garlands (the wardens').

1603. An account of George Bell, armourer, for armour repaired and cleaned.

1603. An account for work done in the garden. The gardener received 1s. 6d. a day, and his labourer 1s. a day.

1647. An account "for white rushes for the King's chamber against our Master Nash his quarter dinner."

Papers in connection with the provision of corn, including receipts for the repayment of moneys advanced by members for the purchase of corn, shewing that such transactions were regarded merely as loans to the Company and not as assessments or taxes. (See p. 18.)

In 1594 the price paid for wheat was 38s. 6d., and for rye 25s. 4d.

Receipts for payments in connection with the almshouses.

Receipts for payments of assessments and taxes, including :—

12th November, 1594. Receipt for 30s., being two "fifteenths" charged in respect of Merchant Taylors' Hall.

1st April, 1643. Receipt for £220 assessed on the Company towards £10,000 a week for the maintenance of the Army raised by Parliament.

1650. Printed forms of receipt "for three months assessment for payment of his Excellency the Lord Fairfax his army."

1650. Similar receipts for payment of "the Parliament's Army in England and Ireland."

1651. Do. with "Scotland" added.

1653. Do. with "the Navie" added.

1657. Do. "the Armies and Navies of this Commonwealth."

The payments are made by the tenant, but the amount is assessed on the landlord, apparently on the same footing as the modern income tax, Schedule A.

19th August, 1651. Receipt from Robert Marsh for £20 "to provide one Horse, Armes and Furniture

and for a month's pay for the Rider charged upon him by the Committee for the Militia of London."

The following extracts from building accounts shewing the cost of labour and materials may be of interest :—

Labour per day :—

Labourers, 10*d*.

Carpenters, 1*s*. 4*d*.

Bricklayers, 1*s*. 4*d*.

Sawyers, 1*s*. 2*d*.

Masons, 1*s*. 4*d*.

Plasterers, 1*s*. 4*d*.

Slaters, 1*s*. 8*d*.

Joiners, 1*s*. 8*d*.

Materials :—

Bricks, 10*s*. 6*d*. a thousand.

Lime, 5*s*. 8*d*. a cwt.

Hair for mortar, 5*d*. a bushel.

Small scaffold poles, 4½*d*. each.

Sheet lead, 10*s*. a cwt.

Boards (1¼-in.), 6*s*. per 100 ft.

"Tarris" (? tar), 3*s*. 4*d*. a barrel.

Gravel, 1*s*. a load.

White lead, 3½*d*. a lb.

Hard stone for steps, 8*d*. a ft.

Flint, 2*s*. 7*d*. a load.

Ragstone, 2*s*. 10*d*. a load.

Freestone, 7*d*. a ft.

Paving stone, 6½*d*. a ft.

Glass, 5*d*. a ft.

"Burgany glass," 5*d*. a ft.

"Normandy glass," 7½*d*. a ft.

The cwt. has varied at different periods, but I think at the time these accounts were made it was, as the word denotes, 100 lbs.

On comparing the above prices for provisions and other commodities, and the cost of labour with corresponding figures for the same period given by Professor Thorold Rogers in his "History of Agriculture and Prices in England" and his "Facts and Observations on Wages and Prices in England during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries," considerable differences will be noted, perhaps explained by the fact that the figures given in our records are those for London, and his for the provinces.

There has long been in existence a large scrapbook in which have been pasted sundry old papers relating to the School. Many others have been recently found, which have been placed with them. They include letters from the President and Fellows of St. John's College, with the signatures of Archbishop Laud, Archbishop Juxon and other distinguished persons attached.

CHARTERS.

The collection of the Company's charters is now complete. They comprise the following :—1 *Edward iii.*, 15 *Edward iii.*, 14 *Richard ii.*, 9 *Henry iv.*, 18 *Henry vi.*, 5 *Edward iv.*, 18 *Henry vii.*, 3 *Henry viii.*, 4 and 5 *Philip and Mary*, 2 *Elizabeth*, 3 *James i.*, 36 *Charles ii.*, 3 *James ii.*, 4 *James ii.* Of those in italics the originals have been lost, but I have had transcripts made from the enrolments in the Record Office so as to complete the series.

Each of the earlier charters, down to and including that of *Henry vii.* (with the exception of those of 15 *Edward iii.* and 5 *Edward iv.*, which are only confirmatory), enlarged the scope of the Company's powers. The most important

of all is the charter of 18 Henry vii., under which the Company now act, and which changed it from a craft guild into—what it had already by evolution, in fact, become—a merchants' guild, under the name of "the Guild of Merchant Taylors of the Fraternity of St. John the Baptist in the City of London."

The subsequent charters down to that of 36 Charles ii. merely confirm previous ones. The charter of 1 Edward iii. can hardly be regarded as an act of incorporation as it did no more than empower the taylor and linen armourers of the City of London to hold their guild once in the year "as was their ancient custom."

It is doubtful whether the charter of 14 Richard ii. goes so far as actually to incorporate the Company, although shortly after the granting of this charter a common seal, which is one of the attributes of a corporate body, was used by them, as appears from a deed dated 1393, to which the Master and Wardens were parties, and which states that the common seal freshly ordained (*de novo ordinatum*) for the said Fraternity was thereto attached. (Deeds i., 16.)

The charter of 9 Henry iv., however, was unquestionably an act of incorporation of the Company under the name of "the Fraternity of Taylors and Linen Armourers of St. John the Baptist in the City of London."

The charter of 36 Charles ii. recalls a memorable crisis in the history of London and the City companies.

As a result of the judgment in the well-known proceedings by way of *quo warranto* in the King's Bench, the charters of the City of London were forfeited. The companies, threatened with similar proceedings, surrendered their own charters into the hands of the King, on the promise that new charters would be granted to them, but such new charters left the King absolute master of their destinies. There is no doubt that the feeling aroused by these

arbitrary proceedings contributed largely to the Revolution of 1688. James ii., in fear for his throne, cancelled the surrenders by letters patent dated 23rd October, 1688, and restored to all the companies their charters, but the restitution came too late. The Act of 2 William and Mary, c. viii., annulled the judgment of the King's Bench, restored to the companies the possessions and liberties which previously thereto they had enjoyed, and declared null and void all surrenders since the judgment together with the new charters thereupon granted.

I have for convenience included among the charters certain letters patent which have long been kept with them.

An important document is the letters patent of 17 James i., which should be distinguished from the charter of the same King. This document, in consideration of the payment to the Crown of £600, confirms, releases and ratifies to the Master and Wardens all the property (the particulars of which are set out in detail) then held by them, "with or without a legal title and whether originally held to superstitious uses or not."

This transaction no doubt was part of the system of extortion practised upon the City companies in connection with alleged concealments of lands held to superstitious uses, which the Act of 1 Edward vi., c. 14, had confiscated and vested in the Crown. The effect of this document was still further to secure the absolute title of the Company to the lands in question. (Charter 20.)

Charter 15 is a curious document, namely, letters patent of 7 Richard ii., whereby the King grants a licence to William Partriche "to buy and provide as much sea fish and other fish as shall suffice for the banquet of the Fraternity of the Guild of St. John Baptist in London for the present feast."

This document is seven years earlier than the charter of Richard ii., which, among other things, empowered the Company to hold their annual feast on the festival of their patron saint, St. John the Baptist, and is interesting as shewing the antiquity of the institution of this feast, still held every year on the same anniversary. Why a licence should have been required I cannot say, unless it was a pretext for charging fees. William Partriche was probably the master or a warden of the guild at the time. A certain John Partrich was a warden in the year 1391-2. (Charter 17.)

An Act of 19 Henry vii. required that no ordinances should be made by any guild or craft unless ratified by the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Treasurer, the two Chief Justices or the Justices of Assize. There are still in existence letters patent of the dates 1575, 1613 and 1661, ratifying three sets of ordinances made by the Company (Charters 20, 21 and 22). Among the signatures attached are those of Lord Burghley, Lord Ellesmere, Lord Coke and Lord Clarendon. The earliest of the three was only recently discovered.

The earliest ratification of the Company's ordinances under the operation of this Act is dated 1507. The original letters patent have been lost, but there is a copy in Book 2.

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS, A.

Miscellaneous Documents, A. 1. There has recently been discovered a copy of ordinances passed between the years 1429 and 1455. They are earlier in date than any referred to in the "Memorials."

They are written on three leaves of parchment which apparently formed part of a book, as the leaves are num-

bered 8, 9 and 10, and shew marks of having been stitched together.

They have an additional interest, in that they give the names of the master and wardens during whose term of office each particular ordinance was passed, and so supply many gaps in the existing incomplete list of masters and wardens.

Miscellaneous Documents, A. 4, consists of various documents relating to chantry lands. Under the Act of 37 Henry viii., c. 4, all lands, tenements, rent-charges, etc., held upon trust for chantries, obits, altar lights, and such like so-called "superstitious uses," were confiscated and vested in the Crown, and an inquiry was directed to certain commissioners to ascertain what lands, etc., were so held. The powers conferred by the above-mentioned act having expired at the death of Henry viii., the Act 1 Edward vi., c. 14, was passed with a similar purpose. Under pressure from the Crown, most of the rent-charges upon properties belonging to the City companies were bought back or redeemed by them, but in order to raise the necessary funds they had to sell a considerable amount of their property at a great sacrifice.

No. 4 (1) is a transcript of the appointment of the commission of inquiry under the Act of Henry viii.

No. 4 (2) is a transcript of the Merchant Taylors' Company's return to the Commissioners so appointed.

No. 4 (3) is a transcript of a "brief declaration" further dealing with the subject. This document speaks of two "conductes" in connection with Peter Mason's chantry in St. Peter's, Cornhill. A *conducte* was a hired priest employed to say prayers and masses. The word still survives in the title given to the two chaplains at Eton College, and I presume a part of their original duty was to say masses

for the soul of their founder, Henry vi. The term was also applied to the chaplains at Trinity and King's Colleges, Cambridge, and only fell into disuse in the nineteenth century.

No. 4 (4) is another document which had been lost sight of, and was a great find. It is a duplicate of the return made by the Company to the Commissioners appointed under the Act of Edward vi. It is on a paper roll, 21 feet long and 1 foot wide, and gives full particulars of all lands and rent-charges held by the Company upon superstitious uses, with the names of the donors, the amounts payable and the manner in which the same were to be applied. At the head of the roll is the following note :—

“ This certificate to be effecte and begone at
Lady day at a^o 1548.”

Herbert describes it as a unique document, by which, I presume, he means that this is the only return of the kind that has survived, for of course similar returns were made by the other City guilds. He purports to give particulars of the document, but it is quite clear that he is quoting from a later document, which, while embodying the original return (with numerous errors and inaccuracies for which either the first transcriber or Herbert may be responsible), goes on to allege that certain rent-charges for superstitious uses had not been purchased by the Company and were fifty years in arrear. (Herbert ii., 434, 440-457.) Now the Chantries Act of Edward vi. vested such rent-charges in the Crown as from Easter, 1548, and consequently, if any such rent-charges were fifty years in arrear at the time of the preparation of the document quoted by Herbert, it would fix 1598 as the date of that document, which is just about the time that further claims were being made upon the City guilds for alleged concealments of lands and rent-charges held for superstitious uses. From the wording of Herbert's

document, I believe it was prepared, not on behalf of the Company, but of some person who was trying to bring a charge of concealment against them, with a view to obtaining the reward paid to informers.

No. 4 (5) is the certificate of the Commissioners based on this return, and is printed in the "Memorials." It gives the total value of the lands and the amounts charged thereon, but it has not the same interest as it does not give any particulars of the lands charged.

No. 4 (6) is a transcript of the grant by the King to trustees on behalf of the City companies of the rent-charges for superstitious uses redeemed by them as above mentioned, and No. 4 (7) is a transcript of the conveyance by the trustees to the Merchant Taylors' Company of their portion of the rent-charges so redeemed.

There are numerous other papers and documents relating to chantry lands for which I must refer the reader to the calendar itself.

The Company sometimes acted as trustees for private individuals, apart from any religious or charitable purpose.

Miscellaneous Documents, A. 5, refers to a case in point. It is a receipt by an infant, on attaining his majority, of a legacy under the will of his father, placed for security in the hands of the Master and Wardens.

Sometimes the Company received money on deposit at interest.

Miscellaneous Documents, A. 9, relates to a transaction of this character. Alexander Nowell, Dean of St. Paul's, deposited with the Company £400 at interest at 5 % p.a., being moneys in his hands as executor of the will of William Deane, esq., of Much Mapleston, Essex. From the minute books it appears that the Company employed this

money by lending it out among their members at interest at 8 % p.a., the profit on the transaction going into their common stock.

Miscellaneous Documents, A. 10, is an agreement, dated 1609, between the Merchant Taylors' Company and the Salters' Company as to the appointment of tackle porters.

In former days it was the custom of many of the City companies to have in their employ men known as tackle porters (as the Vintners' Company have to this day), whose business it was to carry goods and merchandise for the members of the company in whose service they were.

In the year 1517, the Merchant Taylors' Company entered into an agreement with the Salters' Company that, in consideration of the Salters' Company paying them 20s. a year, the Salters' porters should also be porters for the Merchant Taylors' Company, who should employ no others. This arrangement continued in force till the year 1609, when the Merchant Taylors' Company decided to put an end to it, "as holding yt both an indignitie and disgrace to be tied to an inferior Company and also a great hindrance to dyverse porre brothers of that Company."

After some negotiations between the two companies, a new arrangement was entered into, under which there was to be "an absolute and perfect forme of co-partnership of Porters." There were to be four master porters, two appointed by each company, and a body of labourers under them, who must be freemen of London, half to be nominated by the Merchant Taylors and half by the Salters.

Miscellaneous Documents, A. 11, relate to the plantation of Ulster or, to be more exact, of the county of Londonderry, by the City companies. To this undertaking

the Merchant Taylors' Company contributed the largest amount, their share being one-twelfth, *plus* part of a further twelfth.

No. 11 (3) gives the names of the members of the Merchant Taylors' Company who subscribed and the amount of their subscriptions. In some cases the money subscribed was expressed to be given to the use of the Company on condition that the subscriber was to be asked for no further contributions towards the plantation; while in other cases the subscriber retained his interest in the undertaking on a joint stock basis and pledged himself to pay all further calls in respect of his share. Such shares were dealt with by will or transfer *inter vivos*. For example, Peter Bradshaw, who was the largest subscriber among the members of the Company, by his will devised his share among his children and grandchildren. (Deeds xlv.)

In 1704 the Company bought from Peter Bradshaw, a grandson of the testator, all the "original stock, sum or adventure of £634 1s. 8d.," subscribed by the latter towards the plantation. (Deeds xli., 27.)

Similarly the share of Thomas Harrison, who was the next largest subscriber, was purchased from his representatives in 1702 by Charles Noden and Henry Washington ("of Lincoln's Inn, gent."), who sold to the Company in 1713 "all that adventure part portion share and interest" which Thomas Harrison, deceased, "did heretofore purchase off and adventure with the said Company." (Deeds xli., 26 and 28.)

I may mention by the way that the sale to Charles Noden and Henry Washington also comprised ironworks in or near the towns of Lynn and Brayntry in New England.

Henry Washington may have been a member of the family to which George Washington belonged, or his connection with America may have been a mere coincidence.

In 1692 the Company were advised by their counsel, Mr. William Whitelocke, that such shares were chattels and not real estate, and that therefore the profits should be paid to the personal representatives, and not to the heirs, of deceased stockholders. (Misc. Docs., A. 23.)

The companies were given the option to take, in discharge of their contributions, an allotment of lands. (No. 11 (2).) This option appears to have been generally exercised, probably because it was the only chance that the companies had of seeing any of their money back.

There does not seem to have been any great enthusiasm about entering into the venture, but the companies could not help themselves in view of the pressure brought to bear upon them by the Crown.

The grant of the lands was made by the Crown to the Corporation of London, or rather to a new corporate body created *ad hoc* (since known as the Irish Society) as trustees for the various companies, contributories to the plantation fund.

These lands, with the exception of lands in and about the City of Londonderry and the town of Coleraine (still vested in the Irish Society), were subsequently divided into twelve parts or manors, one-twelfth part being conveyed to the Merchant Taylors' Company to which they gave the name of the "manor of St. John Baptist." Another twelfth part known as the manor of Clothworkers was conveyed to the Clothworkers' Company, in trust as to part thereof for the Merchant Taylors' Company, as representing their additional contribution.

There are two interesting old maps or plans, one of the manor of St. John Baptist, dated 1616, and the other of the manor of Clothworkers, dated 1613. (Nos. 11 (19) and 11 (21).)

No. 11 (6) relates to proceedings in the Star Chamber taken about the year 1635, at the instance of the Attorney-General, to cancel the grants to the companies on the ground that the condition of the grants had not been complied with.

It was alleged that the defendants had neglected "to remove the natives and plant with British," but that on the contrary they had "preferred the Irishe before the English, because, they pretended, they were more serviceable and paid higher rents," and had "invited and drawne the Irishrie out of other parts to be theire tennants." Furthermore, instead of "planting the true religion, the Romish religion" was continued, inasmuch as there was "a Popish priest beneficed and maintained in every parish."

In the result, the Court cancelled the grants, but subsequently new grants were made to the companies, first by "His Highness Oliver, Protector of the Commonwealth," and again by Charles ii. (Deeds xli., 11 and 12.)

Misc. Docs., A. 23, and Book 18 contain the accounts of the early expenditure incurred by the Company in connection with the Ulster Plantation. In the year 1641 there is a payment of £7,000 towards "the preservation of Ireland" and £200 towards the relief of Londonderry. It was in that year that there was a rebellion and massacre of Protestants in the north of Ireland. In the year 1689 there is again a payment of £100 for the relief of Londonderry. That was on the occasion of the famous defence of Londonderry against the army of James ii. at the time of the Revolution.

The manor of St. John Baptist was sold in the year 1727, subject to a perpetual annual rent-charge of £150, which was afterwards redeemed. The manor of Clothworkers was sold in the year 1873, the Merchant Taylors' Company receiving their due share of the purchase money

which they afterwards applied towards the purchase of the site of their present school in Charterhouse Square.

The Company are still entitled to their share of any profits arising out of the lands in Londonderry and Coleraine remaining vested in the Irish Society, but though accounts are annually presented no distribution has taken place for many years. This is in consequence of the decision in the case of the Skinners' Company against the Irish Society, in which the Court held that under the terms of the trust it was left entirely to the discretion of the Society whether or not to make any distribution. That discretion they exercise by making no distribution at all, but applying any surplus for the benefit of Londonderry and Coleraine, a course to which, at this time of day, no one would wish to take any exception, though it is hardly consistent with the spirit or the motive of the original undertaking, which was as much a commercial venture with a certain element of public spirit underlying it as, say, the Virginia Company and similar undertakings in the seventeenth century, or the Chartered Company of South Africa or the Imperial British East Africa Company in modern times. Persistent efforts have from time to time been made to establish the claim that the companies were not the beneficial owners of the lands granted to them, but were merely trustees for public purposes. This claim has now, however, been finally disposed of, and the title of the companies firmly established by the decision in the case of the Attorney-General for Ireland *v.* the Irish Society and others, decided in 1898.

Miscellaneous Documents, A. 12, relate to the security given for the loans from the City of London to James i. and Charles i., for further particulars of which see p. 15.

Miscellaneous Documents, A. 13, are papers relating to Wolverhampton Grammar School, founded in 1508 by Sir

Stephen Jenyns (Master of the Company in 1489), of which he appointed the Company trustees, and to the manor of Rushock in Worcestershire which constituted the endowment. They include copies of the licences in mortmain to Sir Stephen Jenyns to grant, and to the Company to hold, the lands in question, with the conveyance thereof to the Company. There appears to have been considerable litigation at various times between the inhabitants of Wolverhampton and the Company with regard to the administration of this trust, for there are numerous documents referring to Chancery proceedings in 1626 and again in 1757. These later proceedings went on for twenty-six years, till 1783, when the Company were on their own application relieved from the trust.

The documents include a full and complete survey of the lands of Rushock, together with a large map of the property made probably about the middle of the eighteenth century.

There are also amusing letters, dated 1737, to the Company from John Downes, second master, complaining of his treatment by Robert Cartwright, the head master of the school. The trouble seems in part to have arisen in consequence of the head master taking upon himself to flog the bottom boys, which the second master considered was his special prerogative. As to the unfortunate boy over whom the dispute arose, the under master, having rescued him out of the hands of the head master, proceeded to give him a flogging in order to assert his own prerogative, and then, upon further enquiries, discovered the boy had done nothing to deserve it.

Miscellaneous Documents, A. 17, relate to the Bachelors' Company, principally in connection with the trusts of the

will of William Say and the Chancery proceedings arising thereout, with which I have already dealt on p. 9.

Miscellaneous Documents, A. 18, is a parchment roll of admissions to the livery, commencing in 1667, and is still in use. Many names have been omitted.

Miscellaneous Documents, A. 21, is a copy of a deed of arrangement sanctioned by the Court of Chancery in connection with the trusts of the will of Robert Boyle, relating to a fee-farm rent of £13 6s. 8d., payable by the Mayor and Burgesses of Lancaster, and another fee-farm rent of £2 10s. 0d., payable out of lands in the Forest of Querne Moor. The deed vests these rents in certain trustees upon trust as to £10 to pay the same to the Merchant Taylors' Company and the City of Oxford, to be distributed between four poor freemen and four poor widows belonging to the two corporations, to be nominated by Sir Henry Ashurst, his heirs or assigns; the residue of the rents to be applied upon certain charities in Bridport and in Oxfordshire.

Sir Henry Ashurst, who was a member of the Merchant Taylors' Company, was one of the executors of the will.

I see from the reports of the Charity Commissioners of 1820 (Sixth Report, p. 392) that the Corporation of Oxford were by the nomination of Ashurst's representative at that time the recipients of the money. The Company do not appear to have ever received any of the money.

Robert Boyle, who died in 1691, was one of the greatest natural philosophers of his age. He was the son of the first Earl of Cork, known as the "Great Earl of Cork," and was one of the founders of the Royal Society. He founded and endowed the Boyle Lectures, the purpose of which is the demonstration of the truth of the Christian religion. (Dictionary of National Biography.)

Miscellaneous Documents, A. 22, is "An Inventory of Household furniture, plate, &c., of the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors, London, apprais'd at what they are intrinsically worth as fixed and standing in and about their Hall in Threadneedle Street the 25th March, 1765."

The amount at which the articles are valued is £1,307 9s. *od.*

Miscellaneous Documents, A. 23, is a small book, apparently compiled about the year 1696, and contains abstracts of several masters' accounts, principally in connection with the Company's Irish estates. It also gives the number of apprentices, freemen, and members of the Livery in various years.

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS, B.

Some explanation is required as to how these documents, which, so far as can at present be ascertained, have no connection with the Company, came into their possession, together with a large number of others of the same character, which, having no special interest, I have not included in the calendar.

Many of the Company's clerks have in former times been solicitors, and have been allowed to carry on their private practice at the Hall. There is no doubt that most of the deeds coming within the category of Miscellaneous Documents, B., were the property of their clients and were put away and forgotten. But there are other sources through which documents came into the Company's possession.

In former days before banks existed, the Company not infrequently acted as depositaries of documents for safe custody. The minutes record several requests to the Company by members of the Court and other persons to act in this capacity. For instance, Sir William Fitzwilliam, the grandson of our benefactor of the same name, deposited certain documents with the Company on his departure for Ireland to take up the position of Lord Deputy, though in this particular case the minutes record that the documents were handed back to his son. It is also possible that some of the documents were deposited with the Company as security for loans on moneys owing.

Miscellaneous Documents, B. 1, is a deed of about the year 1299 in connection with the ownership of a wall between two tenements in the parish of St. Mary of Abcherche, and a grant of the easement of "eaves-droppings," that is to say, the right to run the water from your roof on to your neighbour's property.

Miscellaneous Documents, B. 2, are some early fourteenth century deeds relating to property in Ismongerow (Ironmonger Row) in the parish of St. Mary Colechurch, with some fine seals attached.

Miscellaneous Documents, B. 3, is a grant of land by John de Edelmeton and others with the assent of the brothers and sisters of the house of Tannarseld in the parish of St. Mary le Bow to William Baldewyn, tanner, of a plot of land whereon to sell his wares in the said house of Tannarseld.

Riley defines the word "seld" as meaning a warehouse open at the sides with shops within, and adds "these selds probably resembled the eastern bazaars" (Riley, p. 22, *n.*);

he might have said modern markets, such as Smithfield, but on a much smaller scale.

So Tannarseld would be the place where the tanners carried on their trade.

The brothers and sisters of the house of Tannarseld are described as the "Fraternity of the Tannarseld" in the will of William Mosehache, who bequeaths to his wife a table in the Tannarseld during widowhood or if she marry a tanner. (Cal. Wills, ii., 135.)

According to Stow, there stood on the north side of Bowchurch towards Cheapside, "one fayre building of Stone called in record 'Seldam,' a shed, which greatly darkeneth the said church." "King Edward the third caused this sild or shed to be made and strongly to bee builded of stone for himselfe, the Queene and other Estates to stand in, there to beholde the Iustinges and other shewes at their pleasures." Henry iv. confirmed the said building to Stephen Spilman and others "by the name of one new Seldam," etc., "called Crounsilde or Tanarsilde." (Stow i., 257.)

Kingsford says, "Tannersilde is no doubt a corruption of Tannarseld," but he goes on to speak of it as "the building in Friday Street to which all foreign tanners had to bring their hides." (Ib. ii., 329, *notes*.) Obviously this is not the same "Tannarseld" to which Stow refers, for Bow Church does not adjoin Friday Street, nor is Friday Street in the parish of St. Mary-le-Bow, but must be the "Seld of Frydaystrete," the property of Adam Lovekyn which "serves for all foreign tanners." (Riley, p. 343.)

Bow Lane adjoins Bow Church and was formerly occupied by cordwainers or bootmakers which would account for the position of Tannarseld.

Miscellaneous Documents, B. 4, is a lease of tenements

in the parish of Our Lady of Abbecherche. It has a certain interest for the Company because the lessor is Alice, widow of Hugh de Portesmouth, citizen and tailor, and the lessee, John Creyke, tailor.

Hugh de Portesmouth was one of the trustees, to whom the site of the Hall was conveyed upon trust for the Company in the year 1347.

John Creyke is probably the same man as John Creek, who, by his will dated 1418, devised to the Company a tenement in the parish of St. Dunstan's in the East (now No. 8 Tower Street), and whose obit the Company kept at St. Mary Abchurch. Note the canting crest or badge of a cornrake between the letters "I. K." on John Creyke's seal.

Miscellaneous Documents, B. 7, is a release dated 1431 by William Crowmer and others to Sir Reginald Cobham, of the advowson of the parish church of Lingfield in Surrey, which had been granted to the grantees and Sir Reginald Cobham by the Abbot and Convent of Hyde by Winchester.

Sir Reginald Cobham of Sterborough founded a college within the church of Lingfield by licence from the Crown, dated 1431. The endowment included the advowson and rectory of the church. The college was suppressed in 1544.

Sir Reginald Cobham was son and heir of Reginald, second Lord Cobham of Sterborough, but was never summoned to Parliament. To him was committed the custody of the Duke of Orleans, afterwards Louis xii., who had been taken prisoner at Agincourt twenty years before. There are very fine tombs in Lingfield church of Sir Reginald Cobham and other members of his family.

Among the witnesses to the deed is Thomas Bekyngton, Doctor of Laws. This is probably the man who was after-

wards Keeper of the Privy Seal to Henry vi., and Bishop of Bath and Wells. He built the west alley of the cloisters and other works at Wells.

(See the Victoria History of Surrey for an account of Lingfield College and the Cobham family ; also Cockayne's Complete Peerage.)

Miscellaneous Documents, B. 8, is a release dated 1465 by Edward iv., to the Mayor and citizens of London, at the request of the Queen "who holds the said City as the place of her birth in great favour before other cities and places of the Kingdom," of a fee-farm rent of £20 yearly from the manor of Blanch Appulton and the place called Stywardy's Inne within the said City.

By a grant (No. 8*b*) dated the 18th of July, 1478, Edward iv. grants to the Mayor and citizens of London the said manor and the place called Stywardes Inne in consideration of the sum of £4,000 remitted by the City to the King, being part of a debt of £12,923 9*s.* 8*d.* owing by him to the City.

Blaunch Appulton or Blanch Apleton was at the north-east corner of Fenchurch Street and Mark Lane. According to Stow, "in the third of Edward the fourth all Basket makers, wiar drawers and other forreyners were permitted to have shops in this mannor of Blanch Apleton and not elsewhere within this Citie or suburbs thereof." (Stow i., 150.) The name occurs as early as 1177. (Anc. Deeds, A. 7, 295.) A part of the manor came to the family of Ros or Roos of Hamelake. Another part belonged to the Bohuns, Earls of Hereford. (Stow ii., 294, *notes*.)

The name of de Roos is familiar in the annals of the Merchant Taylors' Company. Several Lords de Roos were freemen of the Company, and one of the principal obits kept by them was that of Dame Beatrice de Roos.

The Queen of Edward iv., it will be remembered, was Elizabeth Woodville, daughter of Richard Woodville, Lord Rivers, and the mother of the young princes who were murdered in the Tower.

The calendar of 1689 includes "a bundle of writings relating to Blanch Appulton and the City of London against the Attorney-General," but the Company have nothing now in their possession beyond the two deeds above referred to.

Miscellaneous Documents, B. 9a, is a document specially worthy of notice. It is a mortgage dated the 22nd of August, 1544, by Henry viii. to a number of leading members of the Merchant Taylors' Company, of fee-farm rents, manors and lands in various parts of England to secure a loan of £3,803 6s. 8d., the clear yearly value of which is stated to be £171 13s. 7d., the mortgage to be void upon repayment by the King of the loan within one year. The document is stated to be witnessed by "Katherine, Queen of England" (Katherine Parr).

This loan appears to be part of a loan of £21,263 6s. 8d. made by members of the twelve companies which is referred to in Strype, Book 1, p. 282. Strype gives the names of some of the largest subscribers, among which I notice the names of the following merchant taylors:—Henry Hubbathorne, £300; Thomas White, £300; John Wilford, £100.

Needless to say the loan was not repaid. The next document (No. 9b) is an agreement between the lenders for a partition of the lands and rents according to their contributions to the loan.

No. 9c is a deed of partition as to some of the lands. It recites that "our late Soueraigne Lorde made defaulte of payment of the saide somme."

What makes this mortgage so interesting is that, at the very time that this loan was carried through, the subject of forced loans to the King had reached an acute stage. In the same year, 1544, an Act had been passed releasing to the King all moneys borrowed by him since 1542. In the following year, 1545, Henry had once more recourse to what were called benevolences. The consequences of refusal to contribute were serious, as the following account from Hallam shews. Richard Reed, an alderman of London, it is said, had stood alone among his fellow citizens in refusing to contribute. Such conduct could not be overlooked, and this is how he was punished. England was then at war with Scotland, and Reed was sent to serve as a soldier at his own charge. The general in command was instructed to employ him on the hardest and most perilous duty and to subject him when in garrison to the greatest privations, that he might feel the smart of his folly and sturdy disobedience. (Hallam ii., 24-25.)

Our predecessors in the Merchant Taylors' Company must have been cleverer than their generation, for not only did they manage to get security for their loan, but were actually allowed to realise it, when default was made in payment.

Miscellaneous Documents, B. 10, is a lease, dated 1550, of some property in Thames Street. The document, which is otherwise of no interest, has, written at the foot in a different hand, the following undated memorandum, having nothing whatever to do with the lease :—

“ Parrys garden at firste shotte, xlvi.

At Stangate, lxxii.

At Stangate at second tyme, l.

At Stangate nether dromme ne Ancyent.”

I presume the numbers given are those of the members of the shooting association or corps attending drill and practice. The word "ancyent" is a corruption of the word "ensign," and means both the flag and the officer who carries the flag. Thus Pistoll in Shakespeare's "Henry v." was called "ancient Pistoll" because of his office.

Parrys garden was on the south side of the Thames, opposite Whitefriars and Bridewell, and was a favourite resort of the citizens, but did not possess too good a reputation.

"Publius, student at the common law,
Oft leaves his books and for his recreation
To Paris Garden doth himself withdraw."

(Quoted in Hare's "Walks in London,"
Vol. I., p. 356.)

Stangate was higher up the river, about where St. Thomas's Hospital now stands.

Miscellaneous Documents, B. 11, relates to messuages known as the "Sixe Basens," the "Blewe Bell," the "Three Crownes" and the "Flyenge Horse" in the parish of "All Hallowes in the Elmes," otherwise All Hallows', Lombard Street.

The property belonged to one, John Laycock, citizen and barber surgeon, hence, I presume, the sign of the "Sixe Basens." The cupping basin with the pole painted red and white to represent the blood and the linen bandage were the emblems of the barber surgeon.

I have not previously come across the name of "All Hallowes in the Elmes" as applied to All Hallows', Lombard Street. The same suggestion of greenery—long vanished—occurs in the name of another City church, St. Anne-in-the-Willows.

Miscellaneous Documents, B. 14, relates to property near Galley Key in the parish of All Hallows', Barking. Stow says that Galley Key was the place where "divers strangers borne of Genoa and those parts, commonly called Galley men as men that came uppe in the Gallies," landed their wines and other merchandise. The district is still the centre of the wine trade.

Miscellaneous Documents, B. 15, is later than most of the documents in the calendar, but I have included it as it is rather curious. It is dated 1st March, 1744, and is an agreement between Robert Karrington, "Upper Ruler of the Fellowship Porters of Billingsgate," and twelve others (named), Rulers and Assistants of the said Fellowship, and Richard Brooks, "present Master Corn Meter" of the City of London, in reference to the appointment of Richard Brooks by the "Company or Fellowship of Corn and Salt porters commonly called the Porters of Billingsgate at their Court House at Billingsgate" to be their "shifter" for the term of twenty-one years. He is to collect all moneys due to any brother or porter of the Fellowship for work on the north side of the river from London Bridge downwards and on all ships in the river and to pay it over to the Rulers, less a commission of 1*d.* in the shilling. The Fellowship is to retain the right of collection on the south side of the river and in ships lying between the wharves and low-water mark on that side. For the privilege of the office he is to pay the Fellowship £56 a year and the Deputy of Billingsgate ward £14 a year.

A voluntary association known as the "Fellowship Porters" is, or was till quite recently, in existence. There is an account of it in Hazlitt's *Livery Companies*, p. 154. He speaks of it as the only survival of many attempts on the part of the journeymen yeomen or denizens in trades in

former days to combine for something more than self-defence.

Miscellaneous Documents, B. 16, is a parchment roll containing extracts, in a seventeenth century hand, from the chartulary of the Priory of St. Andrew of Northampton, and is marked "ex libro Johannis Cotton barr." This priory was a house of Cluniac monks and was founded by Simon de St. Liz, Earl of Northampton, one of the adventurers who came over with William the Conqueror. The priory was suppressed in 1538.

The document commences with a memorandum that the foundation charter was confirmed by William the Conqueror. This would make the date of the foundation not later than 1087.

Sir John Cotton was the grandson of Sir Robert Cotton who made the Cottonian collection of MSS.

Miscellaneous Documents, B. 17, which relates to some piracy proceedings, is dated as of Hilary Term, 1347, Pleas before the King at Norwich. The jury find that William Haunsard of London, together with several others unknown, about the feast of Holy Trinity, 1339, on the sea coast between England and Flanders, entered a ship called "La Tarryt," which was under the King's protection, and carried away goods and merchandise. The prisoner thereupon produces the King's pardon, dated 1st April, 1346.

Miscellaneous Documents, B. 18, comprises the court rolls of the manor of Merton in the county of Surrey for the years 1485 to 1666, with proceedings of courts and views of frank-pledge. The priors of Merton were the lords of the manor from 1121 to 1538. From 1538 to about 1611, the manor was vested in the Crown except for a short period

from 9th December, 1558, to 1st April, 1559, during which Maurice, Prior of the "House of Jesus of Bethlehem of Sheane," was lord of the manor. The interregnum is remarkable because it took place after Elizabeth had come to the throne. It would not have been surprising if it had been during the reign of Philip and Mary. From 1611 the lordship of the manor was in private hands.

There was a lawsuit some four years ago in which the customs of this manor were involved, but no one knew of the existence of these rolls for they have only recently been discovered. I do not know whether they contain any information bearing on the subject matter of the suit.

Miscellaneous Documents, B. 19, comprises a number of receipts between the years 1546-1580 to the Innholders' Company for rent and other payments, giving the names of the wardens of that Company by whom the payments were made.

There are included twenty-two receipts for rent for various periods between the above dates due to the Crown for Innholders' Hall in the parish of St. Michael Paternoster, formerly parcel of the possessions of the Chapel of All Hallows', Barking.

In 1580 the rent is paid to Thomas Cockes for "theire common hall situate in St. Michells Paternoster in the ryall otherwise called Whittington Colledge."

For an account of Whittington College founded by Sir Richard Whittington, see Stow i., pp.242-3.

Miscellaneous Documents, B. 20b, is a bond dated 1585 given by John Dalton, citizen and writer of Court-hand, to the Master and Wardens (named) of the Brewers' Company for the payment of £300 to the use of the infant children of

Richard Rawson, "one of the four Masters of the Navy of England." It appears from this document that the Brewers' Company, like the Merchant Taylors' Company, acted on occasion as trustees or guardians of the property of infant children.

Miscellaneous Documents, B. 21, relate to land in Woolwich which formerly belonged to Sir Nicholas Bacon, Lord Keeper. By a deed dated 1st June, 1578, he conveyed it to "Fraunces Bacon esquier, his fifte sonne," who was afterwards the great Lord Bacon. There are good specimens of the signatures of Sir Nicholas Bacon on this deed, and of Lord Bacon on a subsequent mortgage.

ANCIENT TITLE-DEEDS.

No. I. comprises the title-deeds relating to the site of Merchant Taylors' Hall, the Company's earliest acquisition. They commence with the grant (undated but enrolled in the Court of Husting in 1299) by Ralph de Alegate (otherwise Crepin), clerk, to his son, Walter de Glovernia (otherwise Crepin), of his principal mansion in Cornhill with houses and rents adjoining in the parishes of St. Peter, St. Michael upon Cornhill, St. Benet Fink and St. Martin de Otteswich. Edmund Crepin, son of the above Walter Crepin, conveyed that part of the property upon which the Hall stands to John de Yakeslee, from whom it was acquired in 1347 by the Company of Taylors and Linen Armourers, but see p. 8 above (Book 5).

The property belonged in the thirteenth century to Roger FitzRoger, from whose son, John FitzRoger, Ralph de Alegate acquired it (Deeds iii., 2 and 3, and also a grant

by Hugh de Bedford and Joan, his wife, to Ralph de Alegate, Husting Roll 13 (77)). One, Roger FitzRoger, was Mayor in 1249, and may have been the person referred to.

Three original deeds, unfortunately of only minor importance, relating to this title have been recently found, all that remain of the long series referred to in the Evidence Book. (Book 8.) A number of the missing deeds were enrolled in the Court of Husting and elsewhere, and from the enrolments I have had transcripts made, so as to make this interesting title as complete as possible.

As not every deed was enrolled, there are of course many gaps, which can to a certain extent be filled in from the Evidence Book.

I may say here that I have adopted the same course in the case of the titles to other ancient possessions of the Company.

No. II. comprises a few documents relating to the title of the Company's next acquisition, viz., the Saracen's Head ("le Sarazyneshed") in Friday Street, which they purchased in 1401, having previously in 1377 acquired a quit-rent of ten marks a year issuing out of the same premises. It was conveyed subject to an annual quit-rent of 20s. payable to Westminster Abbey, which is now paid to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The property still belongs to the Company.

No. III. comprises the deeds relating to the advowson of St. Martin's Outwich and the houses and lands acquired from John Chirchman in 1405.

There are five original deeds still in existence, but other documents of this series referred to in the calendar are

transcripts from enrolments in the Court of Husting and the Record Office.

No. iii., 3, dated 1294, contains a reference to "the late Ralf de Coningrue, rector of the church of St. Martin de Oteswyk." No existing list of rectors of this parish goes further back than 1300.

No. iii., 4, the will of Edmund de Aumondesham, enrolled 1296, contains a curious bequest. It charges the tenements thereby devised with the payment yearly to his mother, Alice, for the term of her life, of a supertunic, price 3s., and a pair of shoes, price 8d., at Michaelmas, and a pair of shoes of the same price at Easter.

No. iii., 53, is a grant, dated 23rd July, 1405, by the Master and Wardens of the "Guild and Fraternity of St. John the Baptist of the City of London, and the brethren and sisters of the Fraternity," to James Billyngford and others, of "two rooms which John Chircheman, citizen and grocer of London, now occupies for his dwelling in the hostel called le Sterre in Bysshopgatestrete and a small cellar adjoining, with free ingress and egress by the door of the hostel to the said rooms," for the life of John Chircheman and one year after his death, paying nothing to the said Fraternity except a red rose yearly at the feast of the Nativity of St. John Baptist.

The interest of this deed lies in the fact that it gives the dwelling-place of John Chircheman, who was not only a great benefactor to the Company but a very prominent man in the City of London, deemed worthy to be included by Stow in his list of men who had rendered distinguished services to the City. (Stow i., 108.)

He was Sheriff in 1386 and is said to have built the first custom-house in London, and was apparently a man of considerable means. It is strange that a man of his standing should not have had his own house, but have been content

to occupy two rooms in a hostel. Perhaps he had fallen on bad times, or it may be that he was a bachelor and preferred the convenience of living in an inn.

The "Sterre" was part of the property the Company acquired from Chircheman. It stood in Bishopsgate Street next the church and rectory house of St. Martin Outwich, and the site is now part of the Capital and Counties Bank.

No. iii., 54, the last document of this series, is much later in date than those preceding it. It is a grant by Queen Elizabeth to Edmund Haselwood and Edward Thomlynson of all the houses and lands "sometime parcel of the possessions of John Chircheman deceased and by him bequeathed for the maintenance of a priest or chaplain to celebrate masses or other divine services within the church of St. Martin Outwich or for other such superstitious uses there, which premises were concealed, withdrawn or unjustly detained from the Queen or from her father, brother or sister." As the premises were retained by the Company, it is to be presumed that some arrangement or composition was come to with the grantees.

No. IV. relates to the Saracen's Head, Bread Street, devised to the Company by Thomas Sibsay in 1405.

No. V. relates to property in the Poultry by the Great Conduit, devised to the Company in 1412 by Peter Mason (master in 1407). The little shop at the corner of the Poultry and Bucklersbury, still owned by the Company, was part of this gift. The great conduit stood opposite in the centre of the street.

Stowe speaks of it as "the Great Conduit of sweete water conueyed by pipes of Lead under ground from Paddington for seruice of this citie, castellated with stone and cesterned in leade, about the yeare 1285." (Stow i., 264.)

No. VI. comprises deeds relating to property in Cressingham Lane, now known as Anchor Alley, off Thames Street, devised to the Company by Thomas Sutton in 1432.

No. VII. relates to lands and tenements in St. Margaret Pattens Lane, devised to the Company in 1451 by Idonia Halleyate, widow of John Halleyate, citizen and mercer of London, upon condition that her name and that of her husband be inscribed among those of the brothers and sisters of the Fraternity whose souls are prayed for, that 6s. 8d. be spent by the Master and Wardens for her anniversary in the church of St. Martin Outwich, with directions for the observance of the obit, and that her sister, Agnes Drypool, widow, be permitted to occupy the shop she then held unless the Master and Wardens receive her as a sister and grant her such alms and dwelling as other sisters of the Fraternity receive.

St. Margaret Pattens Lane is now known as Rood Lane from the rood or cross which stood in St. Margaret Pattens churchyard, and which was especially endowed by the Pope with indulgences.

No. VIII. is a deed of feoffment by the Master and Wardens of the Company to Stephen Kyrton of messuages at the north-west corner of Lime Street in the parish of St. Andrew Undershaft, known as Penbrigge's Inn, otherwise Benbrigges Inn, devised by Ralph Holland in 1452 to the Company, by whom it was sold in 1550 to Kyrton in order to raise funds to meet the demands of the Crown in connection with the redemption of charges for superstitious uses upon other properties belonging to them. There is an account of Benbrigges Inn in Stow, i., 151.

No. IX. relates to "a great messuage" adjoining the church of St. John upon Walbrook and an alley called Caundissh Alley, formerly Bromholme Alley, in the parish of St. Mary and St. Gabriel Fenchurch, the gift of Hugh Candyssh, otherwise Cavendish, to the Company in 1460.

The church of St. John upon Walbrook no longer exists. It stood at the top of Dowgate Hill at its junction with Candlewick Street, now Cannon Street, where the Walbrook was crossed by a bridge called Horeshew Bridge.

Caundissh Alley was off Fenchurch Street. The original deeds relating to this title go back to 1295 and are among the earliest the Company possess.

The house in Walbrook was, in 1299, owned or occupied by Eustace de Holleweye, "cook to the Queen of Navarre." This was either Blanche, widow of Henry i. of Navarre, who afterwards married Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, brother of Edward i., or her daughter, Joan, Queen of Navarre in her own right, of whom Edmund was appointed guardian during her minority. In 1432 it was occupied by John Penne, citizen and skinner (and alderman and sheriff in 1410), who may have been a member of the family of Penne of Penne in the county of Bucks from whom William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, claimed to be descended.

It may here be noted that Richard Penne, son of John Penne of Penne in the county of Bucks, deceased, gentleman, was apprenticed in December, 1487, to Richard Penne, citizen and taylor, as appears from an entry in the ancient minute books. (Books 37, vol. i., fo. 11.)

The property belonged at one time to Lady Rose Caundyssh, from whom it descended to her son and heir, William Caundyssh, esquire, of the county of Bucks. On his death, it passed to his sister, Joan Wylden, widow, and,

on her death, to her son and heir, William Wylden, who conveyed it in 1453 to Hugh Cavendissh.

John Penne above mentioned was tenant to Joan Wylden.

A letter of attorney from William Wylden to Hugh Cavendissh to receive the rent of the property has two seals attached, the explanation of which is curious. The document states that he has appended his own seal thereto, but "because it is unknown to many he has procured the seal of the Reverend and discreet Stephen Brown, one of the Aldermen, to be appended in greater evidence of the premises."

No. X. comprises : (i.) A counterpart conveyance on sale, dated the 3rd December, 1673, by the Master and Wardens to John Backwell and Richard Mounteney, of "a messuage on the north side of Lombard Street abutting on the east upon a new alley called Exchange Alley lying in part over the said alley and having vaults under the said alley as the same messuage was lately built by and is now in the occupation of Edward Backwell Esquire," in consideration of £1,000, and a reservation to the Company of the yearly rent of £5 which they still receive. These premises are now 71, Lombard Street, and are part of Lloyds Bank. (ii.) A counterpart conveyance on sale, dated 3rd December, 1673, by the Master and Wardens to John Backwell and Richard Mounteney, in consideration of £4,000 of all the property in Lombard Street and Cornhill devised to the Company by (a) Sir John Percivall in 1502, and (b) by Giles Slater in 1522, except (1) a messuage in Cornhill called by the name or sign of the "Turke's Head," now No. 21, Cornhill, which the Company still own, and (2) the above-mentioned messuage on the north side of Lombard Street abutting upon Exchange Alley.

The sale of this valuable property was one of the disastrous consequences to the Company of the Fire of London, crippled as their resources already were by the heavy exactions of the Stuarts following on the Tudors.

In 1564 a strong effort had been made by the Corporation of London to purchase this property as the site of the new "burse" or exchange which Sir Thomas Gresham had undertaken to build "for that it did so joyne upon Lombard Strete whereby the said Burse might thereby retayne and kepe the ancient name of Lombard Strete for that the Policies that hathe been made tyme out of mynde between marchaunte and marchaunte in other forren regions hath had relations to be of as good effect to all respects as the policies usually made in Lombard Strete was of, whereby it dothe appeare that the Burse of Lombard Strete is of longer antiquitie than any other Burse is known to be of that is within all Europe."

The Company, however, absolutely declined to sell the property on any terms, and so it came about that Sir Thomas Gresham erected his new "burse" upon the site of the present Royal Exchange (see the Minute of the Court of Assistants of 12th January, 1564-5, printed in "The Early History," i., pp. 396 and following.

Edward Backwell, referred to in the body of the deed, was by trade a goldsmith, and was a remarkable man. He may almost be described as the father of modern banking, and is said to have been the originator of "goldsmith's notes," which were the earliest form of bank notes. He was banker to Charles ii., and through him were carried out the financial arrangements in connection with the sale of Dunkirk by that King to the French.

He was a friend of Pepys, whose Diary contains many references to him and to the houses which he was going to

build in Cornhill and Lombard Street. (Diary of Samuel Pepys, Wheatley's edn., iii., 195, and viii., 291.)

It may be presumed that though the sale was to John Backwell and Richard Mounteney, they were, in fact, purchasing on behalf of Edward Backwell. John Backwell was either his son or his brother, both of whom bore the name of John, and Richard Mounteney was the husband of his niece.

The property comprised in the sale included a house in Lombard Street "called the 'Unicorne' now or late in the tenure of John Portman goldsmith." This house was at one time Edward Backwell's shop.

Mr. John Biddulph Martin in his interesting history of "The Grasshopper in Lombard Street" (now Martin's Bank, 68, Lombard Street) produces documentary evidence to show that the "Unicorne" adjoined the "Grasshopper," and therefore stood on the site of what is now 69, Lombard Street.

From this one can get some idea of the extent of the property sold by the Company. It included the greater part of the site of what is now Lloyds Bank, extending from Lombard Street to Cornhill, together with the site of Nos. 69 and 70, Lombard Street. How much land at the rear of these two last-mentioned houses and in Cornhill was also included it is impossible now to fix. If it had not been for this unfortunate sale the Company would have been almost the richest of all the City guilds.

Prior to the erection of Sir Thomas Gresham's "Burse," merchants met for the transaction of business under the open sky in Lombard Street and the lanes and alleys adjoining.

So strong was the *genius loci* that, notwithstanding the advantages offered by the new burse, or because the accommodation afforded was insufficient, much business still continued to be transacted in and about Lombard Street. So,

for the convenience of merchants, Edward Backwell made the new alley called "Exchange Alley," referred to in the above-mentioned deeds, which runs along the east side of Lloyds Bank.

It will be remembered that it was in Exchange Alley that the wild scenes of speculation took place at the time of the South Sea Bubble.

No. XI. comprises a grant by the Master and Wardens of the Company to Thomas Coole or Cole as trustee for Sir William Fitzwilliam, in consideration of the payment by the latter of 1,200 marks (£800) of a yearly rent-charge of £20 issuing out of twelve messuages in Lombard Street and Cornhill in the parishes of St. Mary Woolnoth and St. Michael Cornhill, given to the Company by Sir John Percivall, being the property afterwards sold by them to John Backwell and Richard Mounteney. (Deeds x.)

In pursuance of the trust reposed in him, Coole by his will devised the rent-charge to the Abbey of Croyland upon trust to pay £7 a year to a chantry priest to pray for the soul of Sir William Fitzwilliam in the church of Marham (now called Marholm) in the county of Northampton, and 6s. 8d. a year to be expended on his obit, and to apply the balance of £12 13s. 4d. upon other trusts as therein declared, including £10 13s. 4d. a year for the support of four almsmen at Marham. The whole £12 13s. 4d. is now paid by the Company to the rector of Marholm for the almsmen in the Fitzwilliam Almshouses there.

The subsequent history of the balance of £7 6s. 8d. is interesting. It was not included in the return made by the Company to the Chantry Commissioners of Edward vi., for, although as owners of the property charged they were liable for the payment of the rent-charge, they were not

concerned as trustees in its application. Many years afterwards the fact that the Company had made no return of this rent-charge was discovered by Thomas Litchfield, a notorious informer, to whom Queen Elizabeth had granted a patent to search out and discover any lands or moneys given for the maintenance of chantries which under the Chantries Act were confiscated by the Crown on the ground that they were applied for superstitious uses.

Proceedings were taken against the Company, with the result that they were compelled to pay the arrears from Easter, 1548, when the Act came into operation. The Company admitted that they had made no return of this rent-charge, but pleaded that the money had nevertheless been applied in the relief of the poor, but that was not regarded as an answer to the claim. It was unjust to charge the Company with any concealment, for not only was it not incumbent on them to make the return, but as a matter of fact, of which no doubt the Company was unaware, a return of the payment to the chantry priest had been made to the Chantry Commissioners for Northamptonshire as appears from their certificate still extant at the Record Office. (Chantry Certificates 36.)

One moiety of the arrears so recovered went to the informer. The other moiety the Queen assigned over to Walter Fish, who was a member of the Company and was Master in 1576. With this money Fish purchased a house in Cannon Street which he transferred to the Company as an endowment for five divinity scholarships founded by him at St. John's College, Oxford, now known as the "Fish Exhibitions." The rent-charge of £7 6s. 8d. was also assigned to Fish, who gave it to the Company upon trust to distribute £7 a year (representing the stipend of the chantry priest) amongst the almsmen of the livery of the Company, and to pay the balance of 6s. 8d. (which had been originally

given for Sir William Fitzwilliam's obit) to the clerk and beadle. Stow says that Fish was tailor to the Queen and this statement has been recently confirmed, for at a sale by auction, which took place about two years ago, of ancient manuscripts there are included some of Fish's original accounts for dress supplied to the Queen. Sir William Fitzwilliam was Master of the Company in 1499 and was one of its most distinguished members. (See an account of his life in "The Early History" ii., 39.)

No. XIII. relates to a grant by the Master and Wardens of the Company to Isabel Howdan, widow of Thomas Howdan (Master in 1505), of a yearly rent-charge of £8 10s. 0d. "from their six tenements newly built in Bradstrete" (now called Threadneedle Street) "in the parish of St. Benet in the ward of Bradstrete and from all their tenements in the parish of Holy Trinity the Less," in consideration of 500 marks (£333 6s. 8d.), a gilt standing cup with a cover and two salts of silver with a little cover parcel gilt.

Isabel Howdan bequeaths the rent-charge to the Master and Wardens to pay £7 3s. 4d. to an honest secular priest who can sing well "his playne and faburdon."

The Master and Wardens are to expend 16s. 8d. on the obit of Thomas Howdan in the church of St. Mary Abchurch. The testatrix gives minute directions as to observance of the obit, and if any part of the 16s. 8d. is left unspent, it is to be laid out in a potation for the Master and Wardens and the parishioners present at the obit. The balance of 10s. is to be expended on coals for the poor.

The rent-charge, so far as the same was applicable to superstitious uses, was purchased back by the Company from the Crown on the dissolution of chantries. The 10s. was redeemed under the City of London Parochial Charities Act, 1883.

No. XVIII. relates to a yearly rent-charge of £9 13s. 4d. purchased by James Wylford (Master in 1494) from the Company for £433 6s. 8d. and to issue out of the messuage belonging to the Company known as the "Saryson's Hedde," Friday Street. (See Deeds ii.)

By a deed dated the 15th November, 1521, he directs the Company to apply the rent-charge for the maintenance of a priest to say masses for the souls of himself and his family, for the keeping of his obit, and for the making and support of the paschal light in the church of St. Bartholomew the Little (St. Bartholomew by the Exchange). After *dirige* done, the Master and Wardens, with the parson, priests, clerks and other neighbours present at the obit, shall come, if it please them, to Merchant Taylors' Hall, when the Master and Wardens shall provide bread, cheese and ale to the value of 6s. 8d.

A change took place in Wylford's views, due perhaps to the rising spirit of the Reformation, for in 1526 fresh directions were given as to the mode in which the rent-charge was to be applied by the Company. All the previous instructions with regard to masses and the obit were cancelled, and in lieu thereof £7 was to be spent in the repair of the highway which Wylford had caused to be made between Riverhulle in Kent, and Northyam Church in Sussex, £2 in charity, 6s. 8d. for a sermon to be preached every Good Friday in the church of St. Bartholomew on the subject of the Passion of Our Lord, and the balance of 6s. 8d. to the officers of the Company for their pains in administering the trust. The sermon is now preached on Wednesday in Holy Week at the church of St. Margaret, Lothbury (St. Bartholomew's church having been pulled down and the site secularized), and is attended by the Master and Wardens and other members of the Company.

No. XX. relates to property in the parish of St. Martin Ludgate, given to the Company by Hugh Acton (Master in 1527).

It appears from a lengthy document extracted from the Memoranda of the Exchequer for the year 13 Henry viii. that the property formerly belonged to Scolastica Esterfeld, widow of John Esterfeld of Bristol, who devised it to the Fraternity of St. Katheryne of the craft of Haberdashers in London of which her first husband, Richard Barrett, was a member, upon trust to provide a priest and obit in the church of St. Martin Ludgate at the altar of the Blessed Trinity and St. Katharine in that church.

The property was seized by Henry viii. on the ground that the testatrix had no power to leave it in mortmain and was subsequently granted by him to Sir William Kyngeston, "Knight of the body of the King."

Proceedings for the recovery of the property were then taken in the Court of Exchequer.

It was claimed that the Custom of the City had been time out of mind that any freeman can alienate and give tenements therein to any person, in mortmain or otherwise.

The Court, however, held that the premises having been assigned in mortmain were rightfully seized by the King.

In view of the perfectly well-established custom that a citizen of London might by will leave property within the City in mortmain without any licence from the Crown, the explanation of the decision of the Court would appear to be that Scolastica Esterfeld, having married a citizen of Bristol, was no longer entitled to the benefit of the custom.

Sir William Kyngeston sold the property to Hugh Acton, who gave it to the Company.

No. XXIII. is the conveyance, dated 1561, from John Hethe to Richard Botyll (master in 1551), as trustee for the Company, of their old schoolhouse in Suffolk Lane.

The property formerly belonged to Sir John Poultney, who was four times Mayor of London, and was one of the great merchant princes of the fourteenth century, whose name frequently occurs in the annals of the City.

It formed part of the great mansion known from its owner as Poultney's Inn. It was also known at a later period as the manor of the Rose, and is so described in Stow as well as in our own Court Minutes of the 24th of September, 1565. (Stow i., 237; C.M. i., 194.)

Poultney, who died in 1349, besides much other property, owned two large houses in London within a short distance of one another, viz., the one above mentioned, which he described in his will, dated 1348, as his "principal messuage wherein he lived in the parish of St. Laurence de Candelwykstrete" (now named after him St. Laurence Poultney, corrupted into Pountney); and the other, called in the will "le Coldherberuy" or Cold Harbrough, situate in the adjoining parish of All Hallows the Great. (Cal. Wills i., 609.)

His principal messuage, Poultney left (subject to a life interest to his wife) to his son in tail with remainder to the master and chaplains of the Chapel of the Corpus Christi adjoining St. Laurence Poultney church (afterwards known as St. Laurence Poultney College).

"Coldherberuy" he directed should be sold by his executors as soon as they could after his death, the property being then subject to certain life interests.

My reason for bringing in Cold Harbrough is that the fact of Poultney's ownership of the two properties has given rise to considerable confusion between them.

Stow, in giving an account of Cold Harbrough, says that Poultney purchased the property in 1334, and that he lived there, and thence the house had the name of "Poultney's Inne," but this is the only place I have come across (except in modern writers who have followed Stow) where Cold Harbrough has been so called. In fact, in all the ancient documents, subsequent to the date of Poultney's death, which I have been able to refer to, the house is always spoken of as Cold Harbrough (spelt in different ways) and never as Poultney's Inn, though it may have been so known during Poultney's occupation if he ever did live there. On the other hand, Stow makes no mention of Poultney's association with the house in St. Laurence Pountney parish, and yet that house was certainly known as Poultney's Inn at a very early date. In an inquisition into Poultney's affairs, dated 1366, the two houses are clearly distinguished as "a messuage called Coldherbeurgh which belonged to John de Pultenay, knight, in the parish of All Hallows the Great," and "a messuage called Pultenaysin in the parish of St. Laurence Candelwikstret." (Chanc. Inq. Extents on Debts, File 15, No. 17.)

Poultney's executors sold the Cold Harbrough property in 1353 to Sir Nicholas Loveyne, who had married his widow. (H.R. 81 (107).)

Poultney's son having died in 1366, without issue, the property in St. Laurence parish vested in St. Laurence Poultney College, who conveyed it, under the description of "Pulteneysyn" to Richard FitzAlan, sixth Earl of Arundel of the FitzAlan family, in exchange for the advowson of the church of Napton, Warwickshire. (C.P.R., 8 Ric. ii., pt. 2, m. 34, and Anc. Deeds, D. 805.) The Earl of Arundel was attainted and beheaded in 1397, and in the same year the property was granted for life to Edmund (Langley), Duke of York, uncle to Richard ii. (died 1402),

under the description of the inn (*hospicium*) in the parish of St. Laurence Pounteney, late of Richard, Earl of Arundel, come to the King's hands by means of the judgment against him in the present Parliament. (C.P.R., 21 Ric. ii., pt. 1, m. 17.)

Stow says, "In the yeare 1397, John Holland, Earle of Huntington, was lodged there" (*i.e.*, Cold Harbrough), "and Richard the 2 his brother dined with him, it was then counted a right fayre and stately house but in the yeare following I find that Edmond, Earle of Cambridge, was there lodged, notwithstanding the saide house still retained the name of Poultney's Inne, in the raigne of Henrie the sixth, the 26 of his raigne." (Stowe i., 236.)

It seems to me there is some confusion here between Cold Harbrough in All Hallows' parish and Poultney's Inn in St. Laurence parish. Edmund, Earl of Cambridge, is the same man as Edmund, Duke of York, who, as I have just shewn, had in 1397 obtained a grant of Poultney's Inn in St. Laurence parish, and it is to that property therefore that the latter part of the paragraph quoted from Stow should, I think, apply.

On the other hand, it is the case that Cold Harbrough did belong to John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon, afterwards Duke of Exeter, and was, after his attainder, granted in 1401 by Henry iv. to the King's half-brother, John Beaufort, Earl of Somerset, under the name of "La Tour." (C.P.R., 2 Henry iv., pt. 4, m. 5.)

Stow is certainly wrong if he means that Cold Harbrough was called Poultney's Inn down to the time of Henry vi., for the evidence is all the other way. In the very year which he mentions (26 Henry vi.), there is an inquisition after the death of John Holland, second Duke of Exeter, son of the above-mentioned John Holland, Earl of

Huntingdon, in which it is called "La tour otherwise Coldherbergh." (Inq. p.m., Henry vi., File 127, No. 25.)

Beltz, in his "Memorials of the Order of the Garter" (published 1841), says that Edward, the Black Prince, on his return from Calais, took up his residence at Pulteney House in or near Candlewick Street in the parish of St. Laurence Pountney, and continued to live there till 1359; but he also has confused the two houses, for he goes on to say that the mansion had been erected by Poultney on the site of Cold Harbour, which of course was impossible if it was in the parish of St. Laurence. Beltz gives as the authority for his statement an MS. account of the treasurer of the Black Prince, then in the possession of J. Philpot, esquire. I do not know where the manuscript is now to be found, but it would greatly add to the interest of the site of our old school if it could be shewn that the house in which the Black Prince lived for so many years stood there.

Poultney's Inn afterwards belonged to the above-mentioned John Holland, second Duke of Exeter (died 1447), who transferred it to William de la Pole, first Duke of Suffolk, as appears from an inquisition taken on the death of the latter (Inq. p.m., Henry vi., File 139, No. 25), but how John Holland became possessed of it I cannot say.

The Cold Harbrough came into the possession of the same John Holland in 1444, under the will of his stepfather, Sir John Cornwaill. (C.P.R., 22 Henry vi., pt. 1, m. 13.) This double ownership may have further helped to give rise to the confusion between Cold Harbrough, and Poultney's Inn in St. Laurence parish.

William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, commanded the English army in France in the time of Henry vi., and was taken prisoner by Joan of Arc after the raising of the siege of Orleans. He, too, was attainted and, being banished from England, was murdered at sea in 1450. One of the

treasonable acts with which he was charged was the disclosure of State secrets to the representatives of Charles vii. of France in the parish of St. Laurence Pulteney. (Rolls of Parl. v., 178a.)

It was from this Duke that Suffolk Lane, on which the schoolhouse stood, took its name.

The property ultimately passed into the hands of his grandson, Edmund de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, nephew of Edward iv., and in the Act of Henry vii., by which it was restored to him, it is described as "his chief place in the parish of St. Laurence Pulteney." (Rolls of Parl. vi., 476.) This Earl of Suffolk was attainted in 1504 and died in the Tower in 1513.

In 1506 the property was granted to Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, a descendant of Thomas, Duke of Gloucester, son of Edward iii. (Patent Roll, 21 Hen. vii., pt. 2, m. 18.) He was attainted and beheaded in 1521. This is the Buckingham who appears in Shakespeare's "Henry viii." According to the story there told (taken from Holinshed's Chronicle), it was at the Rose in the parish of St. Laurence Poultney that the treasonable words, as reported by the Duke's surveyor, were spoken which led to his condemnation. ("Henry viii.," Act I, sc. 1.)

In the inventory of Buckingham's possessions the property is called the manor of the "Redde Roose." (Letters and Papers iii., Nos. 1,286, 3,695, and App. No. 25.)

In 1525 the property was granted to Henry Courtenay, Marquis of Exeter, grandson of Edward iv. (Letters and Papers iv., 1,610 and 2,002.) He was attainted and beheaded in 1538.

The principal ground of offence of these last three owners seems to have been their royal descent.

In 1539 the property was granted to Robert Ratcliffe, Earl of Sussex. (Parliament Roll 147, No. 17.) His

grandson, Thomas, Earl of Sussex, sold it in 1561 to John Hethe, from whom the Company acquired the part on which their school stood, the remainder being sold to Alderman Beswicke. (Stow ii., 322, *notes*.)

Richard Botyll by his will, dated 1561, devised to the Company the part which had been conveyed to him.

Thomas Ratcliffe, Earl of Sussex, was the famous Lord Deputy of Ireland in the reign of Elizabeth, and the rival of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester.

He was a member of the Company, and in the minute books are copies of several letters to and from him. He is described in the Court Minutes as "a lyvely membre of this mysterie." (C.M. i., 202.)

In 1571 he writes in support of the application of a person recommended, curiously enough, by the Earl of Leicester for the clerkship of the Company. (C.M. i., 535.)

In 1583, the date for the election of Master and Wardens was changed in order to enable the Livery to attend the Earl's funeral. (C.M. iii., 92*b*.)

The celebrated Dr. John Bull, the reputed author of the National Anthem, was apprenticed to the Earl, as appears from our records. (C.M. ii., 73, and iv., 261*b*.)

The above-mentioned Edmund Langley, Duke of York, John Holland, first Duke of Exeter, and his son, John Holland, second Duke of Exeter, Edmund de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, and Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, were also all members of the Company.

It may be asked why the property was conveyed to a trustee and not to the Company direct. The answer is that the Company, as a corporate body, could not, without a licence in mortmain, take a conveyance of land, but could under the custom of London hold lands in the City without any such licence, if devised to them by a freeman, and hence

the practice arose of causing property to be conveyed to a nominee who entered into an obligation to execute an irrevocable devise to the Company.

The sale to the Company included part of the chapel on the first floor of the mansion, but excluded the ground floor and cellar under the chapel.

For many years the school examination or "probation of scholars" was held in this chapel. The site, after the Fire of London, was occupied by the school library. The parts excluded have since, together with the remainder of the site of the mansion, been purchased by the Company. There is an interesting account of Poultny's two residences by Mr. Philip Norman in "*Archæologia*," lvii., 257 and following. (See also Wilson's *History of the parish of St. Laurence Pountney*, chap. 17.)

No. XXV. comprises deeds relating to properties devised to the Company by Sir Thomas Rowe (Alderman, 1557 and Mayor in 1568), subject to annuities amounting to £40 a year. In a recent action in the Chancery Division, initiated by the Company to define their interest in the properties so devised to them, the Court held that, subject to a sufficient sum to meet the annuities being invested in Consols in the name of the Official Trustee of Charities, these properties belonged to the Company free from any trust whatsoever.

Rowe's gift included a small house on old London Bridge. As is well known, there was a line of shops and buildings standing on each side of the old bridge. These were demolished in the middle of the eighteenth century to accommodate the traffic.

The gift also included a house formerly belonging to the nuns of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, subject to a long

lease made by Dame Marie Rollesley, the last prioress of St. Helen's.

This house adjoined the south wall of the transept of St. Helen's church. When the buildings on this site were pulled down about fifty or sixty years ago, preparatory to the erection of the present building, a blocked-up window was discovered in the transept. In the rebuilding, the Company left a small lighting area so as to enable this window to be reopened, which has since been done.

Another property given by Rowe was the "olde Hall" in Dowgate. Stow describes it as one great stone house at the corner of Dowgate and Elbow Lane, "sometime partaining to William de pont le arch and by him given to the Priorie of St. Marie Overy in Southwarke in the raigne of Henry the first." (Stow i., 231.) On part of this site at the end of the sixteenth or beginning of the seventeenth century stood "Fruiterers' Hall," which the Fruiterers' Company held as tenants of the Merchant Taylors' Company, as appears from the rent-roll of the latter Company.

On another part of the site stand domestic offices in connection with Innholders' Hall. Originally an encroachment by the Innholders' Company, the Merchant Taylors' Company granted them a long lease of this piece.

Rowe also gave to the Company several other properties.

No. XXVI. includes a number of documents relating to loan charities founded by Sir Thomas White.

A deed dated the 1st July, 1566, made between the City of Bristowe (Bristol) of the first part, St. John's College, Oxford, of the second part, and the Merchant Taylors' Company of the third part, sets out the trusts of lands in Gloucestershire and Somersetshire purchased by the City of Bristol out of moneys provided by Sir Thomas White. The

beneficiaries are the Merchant Taylors' Company and twenty-three cities or towns, viz. : Bristol, York, Canterbury, Reading, Gloucester, Worcester, Exeter, Salisbury, West Chester, Norwich, Southampton, Lincoln, Winchester, Oxford, Hereford, Cambridge, Shrewsbury, Lynn, Bath, Derby, Ipswich, Colchester and Newcastle. Out of the rents the City of Bristol as trustees are to pay £104 every twenty-fourth year to each of the beneficiaries, to be applied by them as loans to young men of good character, clothiers to be preferred. On St. John's College is thrown the duty of seeing that the trusts are properly carried out. The property has greatly increased in value, but the City of Bristol has successfully maintained their claim to the surplus rents.

The other documents relate to property in Coventry, of which the City of Coventry were appointed the trustees, the beneficiaries being the cities or towns of Coventry, Northampton, Leicester, Nottingham and Warwick, the moneys received by them to be expended in free loans to young men, inhabitants of those places. The Merchant Taylors' Company were to see that these trusts were properly executed and were to receive (as they still continue to do) a certain proportion of the rents by way of remuneration.

There is a letter to the Company, dated 24th August, 1696, signed by John Hoe, Mayor, and six aldermen, of Nottingham, thanking the Company for their services in endeavouring to discover the true value of the property at Coventry, which the writers were informed had advanced from £70 to £700 a year, and assuring them of their support in the Chancery suit then being brought by the Company against the City of Coventry in connection with the charity. The rise in the value of the property, even at that early period, is remarkable.

For further information with regard to these charities,

see the life of White in the "Early History," vol. ii., chap. 14, and also Baily's Annals of Nottinghamshire, 1853, vol. ii., p. 413.

No. XXVII. relates to the site of what is now the greater part of No. 37, Threadneedle Street, the property of the Company. It was given by Michael Northbrugh, Bishop of London, to the Charterhouse in London, of which, Dugdale says, he was one of the founders. At the dissolution of monasteries it was seized by the Crown and was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Roger Rante and Peter Whetcombe "to hold of the Queen her heirs and successors as of her manor of East Greenwich in the county of Kent in free and common socage and not in capite or by knight service." "To hold in free socage as of the manor of East Greenwich" seems to have been a common form of grant on a sale of crown lands or tenements of small value, the object of which, I imagine, was to relieve the purchaser from the onerous feudal burdens which would have attached had the land been held by him direct from the Crown under the ordinary feudal tenures of knight service and "in capite."

In the instructions issued in 1599 to the Commissioners for the sale of Crown lands it is directed that on a sale of all manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments under the yearly value of £10, they are to be holden of the Crown as of some Crown manor in free socage, where they are of the yearly value of £10 and under £20 they are to be held by knight service, and where they are of the yearly value of £20 and over they are to be held "in capite." (Egerton Papers, Camden Society, pp. 285 and 302.)

East Greenwich was a royal manor, and the reason for its selection was probably because, as it contained a royal palace where the Court frequently resided in the time of

Queen Elizabeth, many of the grants were issued from there.

It is curious that in the charters of many trading companies of about the same period a similar form of grant is adopted ; for example, lands acquired by the Newfoundland, New England, Hudson's Bay and New River Companies were to be held in free socage as of the manor of East Greenwich. (Select Charters of Trading Companies, Seldon Society, vol. xxviii., p. 27.) Such lands would of course be of far greater value than £10 a year, but the advantage of holding them in free socage as of the manor of East Greenwich would equally apply to them.

No. XXX. relates to the Company's property in Moorfields. It was formerly part of the Prebend of Moore belonging to one of the Prebendaries of St. Paul's Cathedral. Among those who held this prebend was Dean Collett, the founder of St. Paul's School. In the days when the land was still open and unbuilt on, it was leased to the Company for tenter grounds for the use of their members who were clothworkers. Here they fixed their tenters or frames on which the cloth in course of manufacture was stretched so as to make it set even and square. When the Company's connection with this property first commenced is not known. The earliest lease to them of which there is any record was for eighty years from 1556 at the yearly rent of £8 10s., as appears from a survey of the Moore lands held by the Merchant Taylors, dated 1600 (XXX. 1). The lease was renewed from time to time till the year 1879, when the Company purchased the freehold from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

There is one document worthy of special notice. It is a sale by Sir John Wollaston and others, trustees appointed by "An Act of the Commons of England in Parliament assem-

bled" for the abolishing of Deans, Prebends, etc., to the Company, of the lands in question, for the sum of £972; all which premises formerly belonged to the "Dean and Chapter of the late Cathedral Church of St. Paul's." This transaction was no doubt repudiated at the Restoration of Charles ii., for the Company again became lessees only of the property.

No. XXXII. relates to property in the parish of Holy Trinity, Minories, being formerly part of the precinct of the Monastery of the Minories of the Order of St. Clare or "Poor Clares" as they are called.

After the dissolution of monasteries the site of the Convent was granted by Edward vi. to Henry, Duke of Suffolk, the father of Queen Jane (Lady Jane Grey). He was beheaded on Tower Hill in 1554.

I can remember being shewn in the little church of Holy Trinity (now pulled down) a mummified head of a man which was said to be that of the Duke of Suffolk. Tradition says that the executioner at the first attempt failed to sever the head from the body, and I was shewn a cut on the neck just above where it had been severed, which would be quite consistent with this tradition, if it really was the Duke's head.

It was discovered in the vault of the church in a square box full of what was said to be oak sawdust, which would account for its state of preservation.

As such stories go, it is not so very unlikely that the head might have been brought from Tower Hill, which is close by, and deposited in the church.

Among these documents is a copy of a lease dated 12th July, 1537, by Dame Elyzabethe Salvage, "Abbas of the Monastery of the Mynorys of the order of Seint Clare without Algate of London," and the convent, with the assent of the whole chapter, to Lady Elyzabeth, Countess of Kyl-

dare, of "theire greate place," late in the tenure of Robert, Earl of Sussex, and then in that of the said Countess (xxxii. 16). The abbey was founded by Edmond, Earl of Lancaster, brother of Edward i., in the year 1293.

Dame Elizabeth Salvage was the last abbess. Elizabeth, Countess of Kildare, was the widow of Gerald Fitzgerald, the ninth Earl of Kildare, Lord Deputy of Ireland. The property afterwards passed into the hands of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, Baron of Denbygh, K.G., Master of the Horse, P.C. (the husband of Amy Robsart), as appears from a deed of bargain and sale by him dated the 6th February, 1578-9. The deed is signed "R. Leycester," and is sealed with the Dudley arms (xxxii. 19).

There is a writ to the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex dated the 12th of February, 1614-15, alleging that the premises are held of the King in chief and calling upon the Sheriff to produce the present tenants in the Court of Exchequer to do homage and fealty (xxxii. 29).

On the fly-leaf of a lengthy memorandum, dated 1591, setting out the devolution of the title to the great house, occurs the following note :—

"A Note or Breviate declaringe the sweatynge sicknes, the fall of the base money, the burninge of Powles, the great plague and the greate froste as foloweth : The Sweatynge Sicknes and the firste fall of base moneye began in London in the month of Julye, 1581.

"Powles Steple was burned on the fourth daye of June, Anno 1561. The greate Plague began in London the laste of Aprill, 1563, and continued the whole yeare folowinge.

"The greate froste began on the xxith of December, 1564, which continued so extreme that on New-yeares even people wente over and alonge the Thames." (xxxii. 27.)

No. XXXIV. relates to various charities founded by Robert Dowe (Master of the Company in 1578).

No. xxxiv. 1 is an agreement or declaration of trust dated the 8th of May, 1605, with reference to a sum of £50 paid by Dowe to the vicar and churchwardens of St. Sepulchre without Newgate to provide prayers, exhortations and tolling on the departure to Tyburn of condemned prisoners from Newgate. Upon complaint by the Chamberlain of London and the Master and Wardens of the Company to the Lord Mayor and the Bishop of London that the conditions are not duly performed, the £50 is to be distributed, one-half for relief of the poor children in Christ's Hospital and one-half for the people in the Company's almshouses.

No. xxxiv. 2 is a deed dated the 28th August, 1605, between the Company of the one part and Robert Dowe of the other part with reference to Dowe's gifts to the Company.

An abstract of this deed is printed in the "Memorials," p. 297, but the following further notes may be of interest :—

Thirteen gowns for almsmen and six cloaks for rever-sioners are to be provided once every third year and distributed on the festival of the Decollation of St. John Baptist (29th August) "when commonly there is used once in every three years to be houlden a Generall Dynner or Feast of the Bachelers of the Merchauntaylers' Company for the whole generallity of the same."

At the funeral of an almsman 6s. 8d. is to be spent upon a recreation or drinking for the almsmen and reversioners, "to be bestowed in cakes, breade, butter, cheese, ale or beere (but noe wyne) in some honest victualling howse"; the clerk of the Bachelors' Company is to attend and bring with him an hour-glass "and presently upon their sitting downe at the Table shall turne the said glass and take especiall care that they remayne not there above one houre"

when they shall depart "in civill sorte" after saying the printed form of prayer given to them at their election.

Dowe directs that 13s. 4d. is to be spent at the recreation or "shooting" dinner of the wardens' substitutes and sixteen men of the Bachelor Company "in the name of Mr. Robert Dowe his myte."

He directs that 40s. with the "potation" money given by other benefactors is to be spent by the Master and Wardens on a dinner for the Master and Wardens with their wives and the principal assistants "to performe the ould saying the more the merrier Company and there to remember the charitable Actes done by the good brethren of the Company." In perpetual remembrance of him the dinner is to be called the "convivium or banquet of Mr. Robert Dow and other good brethren deceased." The Master and Wardens wish to place on record his gifts to St. John's College, Oxford, towards building a library and for the purchase of books, "and also that he hath given to the said Colledge a very auncient Latyn Bible of St. Hierosmes translation written in parchment or vellam"; also his exhibition to poor scholars of the said College and his gift of £50 to the vicar and churchwardens of St. Sepulchre above referred to.

No. xxxiv. 3 is an Indenture dated the 8th of February, 1609-10, between the Corporation of London as Governors of Christ's Hospital of the one part and the Merchant Taylors' Company and Robert Dowe of the other part.

To encourage skilful teachers to instruct the poor children in the school "in the Heavenly science of Musique as a good meane to cause their more speedy preferment," Dowe paid to the treasurer of the Hospital £240 in consideration whereof the Governors undertook that they would provide a music teacher at a salary of £16 yearly to teach music to ten or twelve of the Hospital children, and train them in the knowledge of pricktsong and teach them to

write and make them able to sing in the choir of Christ Church, Newgate Street, on Sundays and Saints' days. As the children were usually catechized at the times appointed for divine service, they were often hindered from singing in church, besides coming "thither very undecently with their face and hands unwashed and their hose and shoes very fowle." To avoid this state of things the singing master was to teach them the catechism in future.

If the Governors fail to perform the trust the £240 is to be repaid by them to the Master and Wardens to be applied towards the relief of the poor in the almshouses. On the 13th of June, 1611, Dowe paid a further £80 in order that the music teacher's salary should be increased to £20 yearly. For this further payment three or four of the children are to be taught to play upon instruments as "the virginalls and viol." For this purpose Dowe bought two pair of virginalls and a bass viol.

There is a similar gift over to the Company if the Governors make default.

The Clerk of the Company is to be paid 3s. 4d. a year to see that the children are being properly taught. (See also "Early History," i., 167, 185 and 186.)

No. xxxiv. 4 is a deed dated the 4th April, 1610, between the Company of the one part and Robert Dowe of the other part with reference to Dowe's further gifts to the Company (abstracted in "Memorials," p. 299).

No. XXXVII. relates to bequests by George Palyn, citizen and girdler of London, of £300 each to St. John's and Brazenose Colleges for founding exhibitions.

The money is to be paid to the Company in the first instance pending its investment in the purchase of land by the two Colleges respectively.

£300 was paid in 1614 to George Buckridge as agent for St. John's College, and £300 in 1615 to Samuel Radcliff, B.D., "Principal of the King's Hall and College of Brasenose."

No. XXXVIII. relates to property at the corner of Aldersgate Street and Little Britain devised to the Company by Richard Osmotherlawe.

The title begins with a bargain and sale by Sir William Skypwith of Bechewood, Hertfordshire, knight, and Dame Elizabeth, his wife, to Henry Gray of a brewhouse called the "George," and five cottages in "Aldrychgatestrete in the parish of St. Botulphe without Aldrychgate in the suburbs of London."

Little Britain, according to Stow, is so called because the Dukes of "Briton" (Bretagne or Brittany) lodged there (Stow i., p. 309).

There are several points of interest in this title.

In 1575 "Letters of Denization" were granted to Daniel Godfrey, "born in the obedience of Philip, King of Spain," which gives him the rights of an English subject of the Queen, but subject to a condition that he is not to dwell in the towns of Berwick and Portsmouth, a restriction in the case of seaport towns which it is to be regretted, in the time of the present great war, has not been taken as a precedent. (xxxviii., A. 12.)

In 1596-7 an inquisition was held at the Guildhall after the death of Cornelius Godfrey. The jurors say that the said Cornelius died seised of the corner house, capital messuage, inn or brewhouse known by the name of "Le George" in the parish of St. Botolph without Aldersgate, and that the said premises are held in "free burgage." (xxxviii., A. 21.)

In 1612 Richard Osmotherlawe devised the property to

the Company, and in 1614-5 is a summons by Edmund Ferrard, Deputy Escheator, to the heir or occupier of the said premises, "late held in chief by Richard Osmotherlee decd." to appear before the Lord Mayor, the Escheator, or his deputy to shew cause why the said premises should not be seized to the use of the King. (xxxviii., A. 25.)

The explanation of these proceedings is that, though lands held in burgage might under the custom of London be devised in mortmain to a corporation, it was not so in the case of lands held "in capite" or "in chief," which, if devised without a licence in mortmain, would be forfeited to the Crown.

An inquiry was duly held before the Deputy Escheator, who, after referring to the above-mentioned inquisition held after the death of Cornelius Godfrey, decided against the Crown, and so this attempt to seize the premises failed. (xxxviii., A. 26.)

No. XXXIX. relates to property in Pope's Head Alley, which lies between Lombard Street and Cornhill, given to the Company by Sir William Craven (Mayor in 1610).

This is a very interesting property, for there are many historic names connected with the site.

In the fourteenth century it belonged to Sir William de la Pole, who received from Edward iii. a grant of the houses in Lombard Street extending right back to Cornhill, which had belonged to the Society of the Bardi, one of the great banking and mercantile houses of Florence, with branches throughout Europe. The Bardi had failed in 1345, principally in consequence of the repudiation by Edward iii. of his indebtedness to them. They acquired the property from Robert Turk, and there is a deed of grant or confirmation, dated 1318, by Edward ii. to "Lapus de Bardi, knight, Doffus de Bardi, knight,

Roger Ardingelli, Dinus Forcetti, Francis Balduchi and their fellow merchants of the Society of the Bardi of Florence," empowering them to hold the same to them and their successors, "merchants of their society." It is therein described as abutting on Lombard Street on the south and Cornhill on the north. (C.P.R., 12 Edw. ii., pt. 1, m. 12, and Stow i., 201, and ii., 307, *notes*.)

Stow records that in Lombard Street stood the house belonging to "William de la Pole, knight and banaret and yet the King's marchant in the 14 of Edward the third, and after him to Michael de la Pole, Earle of Suffolke, in the 14 of Richard the second, and was his marchant's house." (Stow i., 203.)

Sir William de la Pole was the founder of the powerful family of that name, said to have been the first to owe its rise to commerce. He was a wealthy merchant in the time of Edward iii., and was much employed by the King in the commercial and financial affairs of the kingdom. He was a native of Hull, whence he removed to London. He died in 1366 and was succeeded by his son, Sir Michael de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, the famous statesman of the time of Richard ii. From him the property descended to his son and grandson, both named Michael. Michael de la Pole, the grandson, was killed at Agincourt in 1315, and the property then passed to his brother, William de la Pole, Earl, and afterwards Duke, of Suffolk. It was he who acquired "Poultney's Inn," otherwise the "manor of the Rose," on the site of which the old schoolhouse belonging to the Company stood. (See p. 71.)

By a deed dated the 27th of July, 1440, John Stafford, Bishop of Bath and Wells, Chancellor of England, and others conveyed to Sir William Estfeld, John Fray, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and others, the messuage or "hospicium" called "le Popeshed," in Lombard Street,

and also all the tenements which late were of Sir Michael de la Pole, late Earl of Suffolk, in the parishes of St. Mary Woolnoth and St. Michael upon Cornhill. The deed recites that the said John Stafford, etc., jointly with Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, Walter de la Pole, knight, then deceased, and others named, had the premises by enfeoffment of Henry Merston, who jointly with Master Edmund Stafford, Bishop of Exeter, and Sir Ralph Nevyll, Earl of Westmoreland, had the same by enfeoffment of Michael de la Pole, late Earl of Suffolk. (xxxix. 1.)

By a deed dated the following day (25th July, 1440) the above conveyance was confirmed by the above-mentioned William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, and Alice, his wife. Alice, by the way, was a granddaughter of Geoffrey Chaucer. (xxxix. 2.)

It will be observed that the legal estate in the property was vested, not in the Duke himself, but in feoffees or trustees in his behalf. This was a common device resorted to in that troubled period to avoid the risk of a forfeiture following on an attainder for treason. How great the risk was is shewn in the history of the manor of the Rose given above.

John Stafford (died 1452), Bishop of Bath and Wells, Chancellor of England, was afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, and is said to have been the first to have been given the title of Lord Chancellor.

Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick (died 1439), was tutor to Henry vi., and was in 1437 appointed Regent of the King's possessions in France.

Edmund Stafford (died 1419), Bishop of Exeter, was also Chancellor of England.

The following from among the distinguished persons above mentioned were members of the Company : Edmund Stafford, Bishop of Exeter ; Richard Beauchamp, Earl of

Warwick; Ralph Nevyll, Earl of Westmoreland; John Stafford, Bishop of Bath and Wells.

Sir William Estfeld or Eastfield was Mayor in 1437, and was a great benefactor to London. At his expense water was brought in leaden pipes from Tyburn to a standard in Fleet Street near Shoe Lane and to a conduit in Aldermanbury, and from Highbury to a conduit in Cripple-gate. (Stow i., 18, 109, 300.)

From Estfeld the property passed to his grandson, John Bohun, and the latter's grandson, Sir Henry Owen, sold it to Alderman George Monoux in 1516. (Add. MSS. 18,783, and Cal. Wills i., 509.)

That is as far as I can trace the title till Sir William Craven conveyed the Pope's Head portion to the Company.

The de la Pole estate seems to have comprised, in addition to the tavern, one house on the east side and three houses on the west side of the covered gateway of the tavern leading into Lombard Street and two houses on each side of the entry into Cornhill.

In later years the Company purchased the houses on each side of the gateway into Lombard Street, which are now known as Nos. 73 and 74, Lombard Street.

Stow says, "This Popes Head Tauerne, with other houses adioyning, strongly builded of stone, hath of olde time beene all in one, pertaining to some great estate or rather to the king of this Realme, as may be supposed both by the largenesse thereof, and by the armes, to wit, three Leopards passant, gardant, which was the whole armes of England before the raigne of Edward the thirde." . . . "These armes of England supported betweene two Angels, are faire and largely graven in stone on the fore front towards the high street" (Cornhill). . . . "Some say that was King John's house." (Stow i., 199.)

There is a reference to King John's supposed connection with this house in some deeds relating to other property in Pope's Head Alley, purchased by the Company from T. W. Ravenshaw in 1840, consisting of the upper floors over the kitchen of the tavern. It is curious that the kitchen and the upper floors should have been in separate ownerships, for undoubtedly the whole at one time formed part of the same house. The point, however, is that in a lease of these upper floors, dated 1668, they are described as built over the north part of the kitchen belonging to the tavern, "being the easternmost side of that late greate roome called King John's Chappell." As to the two angels supporting the arms of England, these were the supporters used by Richard ii., as they appear in Westminster Hall. He was the first King of England to adopt supporters. (Collins' Introduction to Heraldry, p. 67.)

I suggest, from the evidence of the documents above referred to, that the great house Stow speaks of, whether it ever belonged to King John or not, was identical with the house of the Bardi and the "merchant's house" of Sir William de la Pole.

It was in 1464 at the Pope's Head tavern that the wager was made between an Alicant goldsmith and an English goldsmith, the former claiming that the workmanship of English goldsmiths was inferior to that of foreign goldsmiths. Each was to produce a piece of goldsmith's work on the quality of which the wager was to be decided, with the result that the Englishman won. (Herbert ii., 197.)

At the Pope's Head tavern in 1718, Quin, the actor, killed his fellow actor, Bowen. (Wheatley's "London, Past and Present," iii., 104.)

Pepys frequently dined at this tavern with his friends, as he tells us in his diary.

"Lloyds" were established in Pope's Head Alley from 1771-4 in the interval between their leaving "Lloyd's coffee-house" in Lombard Street, and taking up their present quarters in the Royal Exchange.

There is in the Company's possession an old plan of the Pope's Head tavern as it formerly existed. According to the usual custom, it was built round a courtyard (now Pope's Head Alley), the east and west sides being connected on the upper floors by an archway, over the entrance to Lombard Street.

On the ground floor were a number of little shops, many of which, in the early part of the seventeenth century, were occupied by booksellers.

John Wolfe, who published the first edition of Stow's Survey, had his shop here, and so also had John Sudbury and George Humble, who published the first edition of Speed. Sudbury and Humble were the first print sellers established in London. (Wheatley's "London, Past and Present," vol. iii., p. 104.)

In the seventeenth century an attempt was made to change the name from the Pope's Head Tavern to the Bishop's Head Tavern, but notwithstanding the protestantism of the period the old name survived.

In later years the name of that part of the old tavern which continued to be licensed was changed to the City Arms Tavern. Why people should wish to abandon a name which has been in use for several centuries, it is difficult to understand.

No. XL. relates to property in Lombard Street in the parish of St. Edmund, King and Martyr, given to the Company by John Vernon.

The title begins with a bargain and sale by Sir William Chester (Mayor in 1560) to his son, who sold it to Vernon.

There is a bond, dated 1551, given by the Drapers' Company to Sir William Chester to secure the performance of certain covenants, to which is attached a fine seal of the Drapers' Company, stated to be affixed in the presence of certain members (named) of the Court of Assistants of that Company, and William Bere, their Clerk.

John Vernon bequeathed certain legacies to "the Constables and Society of the Merchants of the Staple of England" and to the mayor and citizens of Chester. The merchants of the Staple receive £100 to be lent to three young men free of that Company, "beinge younge beginners trading in the Staple for themselves." There is a deed of covenant dated 1617-18 by the merchants of the Staple to perform the trust, and if they make default the money shall be recovered by the Master and Wardens of the Merchant Taylors' Company.

The ancient and at one time influential corporation of the Merchants of the Staple still survives. It was incorporated by Edward iii. and Strype describes it as "the first and most ancient English company of merchants trading in wools." (Strype, vol. ii., book 5, p. 259.)

To the mayor and citizens of Chester a sum of £200 is given to remain as a stock for buying wool to give to the poor of Chester employment in carding and spinning wool, knitting stockings and other knitting or working. Out of the profits £10 is to go for charitable purposes and the surplus is to be added to the capital of the fund.

The accounts are to be audited and sent under the seal of the City of Chester to the Master and Wardens of the Merchant Taylors' Company to the intent that increases of the stock might be registered in a book to be kept for that purpose by the Clerk of the Company. There is no record in recent years that these accounts have been presented to the Company.

The mayor and citizens of Chester also received £800 with which to purchase lands of the clear yearly value of £50, of which £40 is to be paid in pensions to ten poor men, whose names are to be sent on to the Clerk of the Company. There are letters, dated 1620, from the mayor of Chester on the subject of these bequests.

After the death of Vernon an inquisition was held in 1623 with regard to the title to the lands.

The jurors say "the City of London has been an ancient city time out of mind, and the custom has been used therein during the whole time aforesaid that lands and tenements within the said city, its suburbs and liberties are divisible by Will and can be bequeathed by any citizen, being a freeman of the city, in mortmain to any person or to any corporate body within the same city, and that all the customs of the city used from long past were ratified and confirmed by the authority of Parliament in 7 Richard ii."

No. XLII. relates to the "Auncient Maunsion or Mannour called the Weeke lyeing nigh Maidston in Kent," containing 245 acres, 2 roods, 31 perches, purchased by the Company in 1617. In consequence of the impoverished state of their finances owing to the exactions of the Stuarts, they had to sell this property a few years later. There is a fine plan of the estate dated 1619, and also a detailed survey or "terrier," undated.

No. XLIII. relates to certain trusts in favour of the University of Oxford, created by Dr. Thomas White, viz., £100 a year for a lectureship of moral philosophy; £6 a year to the library of Christchurch; £8 a year to the readers of the weekly divinity lecture at St. Mary's church, which was moved there from All Hallows' at the instance of Dr. White "during the great pestilence in 1603 and has been continued

there ever since"; 20s. a year to the "rehearser" of the sermons on Good Friday and in Easter week, in which no mention is to be made of the donor; £4 a year to four poor scholars; 40s. a year to the prisoners in Oxford Castle; 20s. a year to a preacher for a sermon on St. Thomas' day, in which the donor is not to be mentioned; £8 a year each to five students of divinity in Magdalen Hall; 4s. a year to the Principal of Magdalen Hall, and the surplus to the University.

The University are once every five years to render an account to the Master and Wardens of the Merchant Taylors, and to pay them five marks yearly. The Company on their part undertake to see that the trusts are carried out. The endowment consists of the manor and lordship of Langdon Hills, otherwise Layndon Hill, Essex. The accounts are still rendered periodically.

Dr. White was also the founder of Sion College, being a corporation consisting of the clergy of London and the suburbs. The college stood on the site of Elsing Spital in London Wall, near the church of St. Alphege. Attached to the college were almshouses for twenty poor people, of whom eight were to be of the Merchant Taylors' Company.

About thirty years ago the site was sold and the present Sion College erected on the Thames embankment. The almshouses were abolished and pensions substituted.

Among the miscellaneous documents in the Company's possession is an early copy of Dr. White's will, together with papers in certain Chancery proceedings instituted shortly after his death by the Company against Sion College in connection with the trusts of the will so far as they affected the almshouses. (Misc. Docs., A. 26.)

Dr. White, who died in 1624, held the Prebend of the Moor where the Company's tenter grounds were situate, and was therefore the Company's landlord.

No. XLVI. relates to Thomas Coventry's Trust.

By a deed dated 10th July, 1636, Thomas Coventry of Croome Dabitott, in the county of Worcester, son and heir-apparent of Thomas, Lord Coventry, Lord Keeper, conveyed to certain members of the Company as trustees, at the request of Mary Coventry, his wife, late deceased, "in her sickness whereof she died," fee-farm rents of £10 3s. 4d., from the rectory of East Moulsey, Surrey, £14 from the rectory of Winslow, Bucks, and £7 13s. 4d. from the rectory of Kimpton, Hertfordshire, upon trusts for the poor of the parishes of St. Andrew Undershaft and St. Antholine in the city of London, and of the parishes of St. Pancras and Hornsey in the county of Middlesex.

There is a copy of a petition of the Master and Wardens to the "Commissioners for Compounding," praying that the rent-charge from the rectory of Winslow, which had been detained from them "by reason of the sequestration of the Duke of Bucks and other trouble of the tymes," might be paid to them with the arrears.

The "Duke of Bucks" is George Villiers, second Duke of Buckingham, whose property was included in the Act of Confiscation passed in 1651. He was a member of the Company.

No. LI. relates to Walter Bigg's Trust.

By a deed dated 6th June, 1659, Walter Bigg conveyed to the Company a messuage in the parish of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, "now in the occupation of Phillip, Lord Wharton," upon certain trusts still administered by the Company.

Lord Wharton was a prominent puritan and one of the leaders of the Parliamentary party. He was the father of Thomas Wharton, one of the leading Whig politicians of the time of the Revolution, who, no doubt, lived in the house as a youth.

Thomas Wharton was the author of the satirical ballad "Lilli-burlero Bulen-a-la," the music of which was written by Purcell. James ii. had in his service a large number of Irish and the words of the refrain are a mockery of the Irish language. The ballad became a violent party song which caused Wharton to boast that he had sung James ii. "out of three Kingdoms." The tune, I believe, is still in favour with the Orangemen of the north of Ireland.

The house was for many years the town house of Lord Wharton.

Messrs. Crosse and Blackwell's jam factory now stands on the site.

No. LII. is an assignment dated 19th April, 1659, by William Fellowes to John Coulson and others (named) of the lease from the Company to Fellowes of "Watermen's Hall" in or near Three Cranes Wharf in the parish of St. Martin's in the Vintry, of which the Company were the freeholders.

No. LIV. relates to property in Turnbase Lane (now incorporated in Cannon Street) devised to the Company by Andrew Dandy for charitable purposes.

The title commences with the will dated 1510 of John Spencer, "citizen and taylor, now dwelling in Streatham." The following extracts from his will may be of interest :—

He wills to be buried in the chapel of Our Lady in the parish church of Streatham. He gives towards the buying of an antiphoner "to be layd in the qwere to syng upon the parson syde," 40s. ; to the Master and Wardens of the "Fraternity of St. John the Baptist founded by the craft of Merchant Taylors of the City of London," 40s. ; to Margaret Danby, his goddaughter, on the day of her

marriage, 20s., "if she be rewlyed by the advise and counsell of her graundame or elles nothing."

The property no longer belongs to the Company, having been purchased in 1849 by the Corporation of London for the extension of Cannon Street.

No. LVIII. relates to Boone's almshouses at Lee in Kent, founded in 1683 by Christopher Boone of London, merchant, of which he appointed the Company trustees. On a site adjoining the high road at Lee, Boone built four almshouses and a small building which he intended should be used for a chapel, to be consecrated according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England and to be used as a burying place for such as he and Mary, his wife, and, after their deaths the Master and Wardens, may think fit to be buried there.

At the end of the last century in consequence of the increase in the value of the endowment, Boone's almshouses, under a scheme of the Charity Commissioners, were rebuilt on a new site and on a larger scale. The old site was, with the sanction of the Commissioners, purchased by the Company and added to the forecourt or garden of their own almshouses which adjoined.

The old almshouses built by Boone were pulled down, but the chapel, a charming old building, is still standing and is used as a reading room.

No. LXII. is a bundle of expired leases and counterpart underleases relating to property, in connection with Dr. Nicholas Winniffe's trust.

In the year 1629, Dr. Winniffe gave certain leasehold properties to trustees upon trust as to one-fourth of the net rents to pay the same to the Merchant Taylors' Company for distribution to the poor.

The last of the leases having expired in the year 1761, the trust came to an end.

It may be noted that another fourth was given to the master and brethren of the almshouse of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist at Sherbourne. (See Report of Charity Commissioners of 1820. 30th Report, p. 132.)

This brings my report to a conclusion.

I have endeavoured within reasonable limits of time and opportunity to verify every statement of fact, and when it is of sufficient importance, to give my authority for the same.

It will be observed that frequently the same name is spelt in two or more ways, even on the same page, but this is not due to carelessness or clerical errors.

In ancient documents the variation in the spelling of names is very noticeable, the same man often spelling his own name in different ways at different times. I came to the conclusion that the simplest plan was to adhere to the spelling as it appeared in the particular document under review.

Although so many of our earliest records are no longer in existence, there is still a sufficient account of them in the interesting calendar of 1609 to shew conclusively that the Company was already in existence as an organized body in the 28th year of Edward i. (1299-1300).

All documents included in the calendar have been put into their proper bundles, labelled and numbered, so that there should be no difficulty in future in finding any that may be required.

There are a very large number of deeds of no special interest which do not appear to have any connection with the Company, but have probably come into their possession under the circumstances explained on p. 43. These deeds have been collected together, roughly endorsed, and placed in a large, wooden, tin-lined box.

In the course of my researches, I have come across the names of many masters and wardens which are missing from the incomplete list contained in the "Early History," and some names in that list have been incorrectly spelt or entered under the wrong years. I have therefore prepared a revised list which will be found in Appendix B. to this Report, commencing in the year 1300, and going down to the year 1562, when the present Minute Books commence, and from which date the record is complete.

As will be seen there still remain many gaps which I am afraid can never be filled in, unless the Company should be fortunate enough to recover the ancient book referred to on p. 3.

APPENDIX A.

A Comparison of the Contents of the Calendars of Books made in the years 1609, 1618 and 1689, with the contents of the Calendar of Ancient Books made in the year 1915.

CALENDAR OF 1609.

"A Veiw taken of all the Companies bookes in the tyme of M^r John Vernon, M^r Anno Domini 1609."

MINUTE BOOKS.

"Bookes wherein are entred promiscue courtes of Assistautes and ordynary cortes of Mr. and Wardens together in succession, one after an other, saving in some yeres, either by negligence, or insufficiency of some Clarke, many thinges are incerten, and omitted, which bookes Richard Langley, synding to be torne and much defaced, caused to be all new bound in leather, with claspes to them, all in one fashion."

"Inprimis, Nyne bookes severally marked with these severall letters, viz. : A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. and I. wherein are entred confusedly together, as well Cortes of Assistautes, as also ordynary cortes of Mr. and Wardens, the Booke A. begynnyng in the xxviiiith yere of King Edward the First, Anno Domini 1299, and the booke I. ending the xxiiiith day of January, 1574."

The book marked with the letter I. (1st July, 1562, to 24th January, 1574) is now volume i. of the Court Minutes (No. 39, Cal. 1915).

Of the eight earlier books A.—H. all that remain is for the period covered by the years 1486-1493, inclusive, now contained in two volumes of Ancient Minute Books (No. 37, Cal. 1915).

“Item one other booke marked with the letter K. begynnyng the xvijth day of January, 1574, and ending the xijth day of July, 1595, xxxvij. Elizabeth. Threescore leaves of the same being entraunces of courtes of Assistauntes, and ordynary cortes both togeathers, and all the rest of the same booke to the very end, is only entraunces of ordynary cortes of Mr. and Wardens.”

Now volume ii. of Court Minutes. (No. 38, Cal. 1915.)

“Item one other faire booke of courtes of Assistauntes only, marked with the letter KK. double begynnyng the xixth day of March, Anno Domini 1575, xviii. Eliz. and ending the fyft day of December Anno Domini 1601; which booke contayneth 442 written leaves.”

Now volume iii. of Court Minutes.

“Item one other booke of courtes of Assistauntes only, marked with the letter LL. double, begynnyng the seaventh day of December, 1601, quadragesimo quarto Eliz.; being the booke now in use, and with spare cleane paper, to contynue for yeres longer.”

Now volume v. of Court Minutes.

“Item one other faire booke of ordynary courtes only, marked with the letter L. single, begynnyng the xxi. day of July, Anno Domini 1595 and ending the xjth day of May, 1607.”

Now volume iv. of Court Minutes.

“Item one other booke of ordynary courtes only, marked with the letter M. single, begynnyng the xvijth day of May, 1607, being the booke now in use, and the same may serve for diuerse yeres longer.”

Now volume vi. of Court Minutes.

In the calendar of 1618, the list is the same as in that of 1609, but with the addition of:—

Book of Courts of Assistants, marked MM., beginning

19th July, 1611, "being the booke now in use, and with spare cleane paper to contynue for yeres longer."

Now volume vii. of Court Minutes.

In the calendar of 1689, the eight earlier books from A. to H. no longer appear, with the exception of :—(1) a book "beginning 10th March, 5 Hen. 4" (1403), and (2) "another from 37 of Henry y^e 6th to y^e 3^d of Hen. y^e 7th" (1458-9 to 1488).

Ancient Minute Books, vol. i., for the period from 7th April, 1486, to 24th June, 1488, can therefore only be a part of the last-mentioned book, and this is confirmed by the fact that this volume commences with a folio marked 228, shewing that the earlier folios must have been lost.

Ancient Minute Books, vol. ii., for the period from 25th June, 1488, to 9th August, 1493, is not included in the calendar of 1689, but this must have been an oversight as the book is still in existence.

From 1562 onwards the calendar of 1689 corresponds with the new calendar of 1915, including the gap between the years 1654 and 1663.

ACCOUNT BOOKS.

"The severall bookes of Accomptes of Mr. and Wardens as followeth, viz. :

"Six auntient bookes of accomptes, marked or nombred 1. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. The first booke marked N^o 1 begynneth in the last yere of king Richard the second, Anno Domini 1399 and the last booke, N^o 6, endeth in the xijth yere of king Henry the eight. Memorandum there are some of the auntient Accomptes in those tymes wanting."

Of these six books, only three remain : No. 1 (1399-1445), No. 2 (1453-1469) and No. 3 (1469-1484). (No. 46, vols. i.-iii., Cal. 1915.) The last of these is much damaged.

The dates are those on which the account is rendered, and therefore cover the income and expenditure for the year of mastership then expiring, and consequently the accounts actually commence in 1398.

“Item one other booke of Accomptes marked N^o 7, begynnynge from the xijth yere of Henry the eight and contynuyng untill the fowre and twentieth yere of his raigne” (1520-1532).

Missing.

“Item one other booke of Accomptes marked N^o 8, begynnynge from the xxiiith yere of king Henry the eight and contynuyng unto the six and thirtieth yere of his raigne” (1532-1545).

Missing.

“Item one other booke of Accomptes marked N^o 9, begynnynge from the xxxvith yere of king Henry the eight, 1545 and contynuyng unto the 4 and 5 yeres of the raigne of king Phillip and Queene Mary, 1557.”

Now volume iv. of Account Books (No. 46, Cal. 1915).

“Item one other booke of Accomptes marked N^o 10, begynnynge 4 et 5 P. et M., 1557, and contynuyng unto the xjth yere of the raigne of Queen Eliz. 1569.”

Missing.

Books marked Nos. 11 to 14 (1569-1604).

Now volume v. to viii. of Account Books.

Book marked No. 15 (1604-1609), “which booke was this yere fully fynished and ended.”

Now volume ix. of Account Books.

In the calendar of 1618, the list is the same as in that of 1609, but with the addition of :—

Book marked No. 16 (1609-1613).

Now volume x. of Account Books.

Book marked No. 17 (1613-1617).

Now volume xi. of Account Books.

The calendar of 1689 corresponds with the new calendar so that the missing volumes must have disappeared between the years 1618 and 1689.

APPRENTICE BOOKS.

"Bookes wherein are entred the names of Apprentizes."

"Inprimis eight old bookes marked severally with these severall letters viz. : A. B. C. D. E. F. G. and H. being all out of forine, which were the bookes before the tyme that Mr. Richard Wright came to be Clarke of this Company."

Missing.

"Item one other booke marked with the letter I., begynnyn the xiith day of Aprill, 1583, and ending at our Lady Day, 1593. parte whereof was written in the tyme that the said Mr. Wright was Clarke, but all the said booke was sithence new bound, and a kallender made to the same by Richard Langley, now Clarke of this Company."

Now vol. i. of Apprentice Books (No. 42, Cal. 1915).

"Item one other booke marked with the letter K. begynnyn the second day of Aprill, 1593, and ending the seaventh day of January, 1594, on which day Mr. Wright being preferred to the office of Packershipp did surrendour his Clarkshipp of this Company, which booke was also new bound, and a kallender made to the same by the said Richard Langley."

Now volume ii. of Apprentice Books.

"Item one other booke marked with the letter L. begynnyn the viiith day of January, 1594 (being the day that Richard Langley was elected Clarke of this Company), and ending the xxv. day of March, 1598, having a kallender to the same."

Now volume iii. of Apprentice Books.

Books marked with the letters M. N. O. P., 25th March, 1598, to 25th March, 1609, each having a kallender."

Now volumes iv. to vii. of Apprentice Books.

"Item one other booke marked with the letter Q. begynnyng the xxvth day of March, 1609; which booke will serve for two or three yeres longer."

Now volume viii. of Apprentice Books.

In the calendar of 1618, the list is the same as in that of 1609, but with the addition of:—

Book marked R.—20th October, 1610, to 25th March, 1613.

Now volume ix. of Apprentice Books.

Book marked S.—29th March, 1613, to 29th March, 1616.

Now volume x. of Apprentice Books.

In the calendar of 1689, five out of the eight earlier apprentice books were still in existence, covering the period from 1550-1574, but all eight books are now missing.

From 1583 onwards the calendar of 1689 corresponds with the new calendar of 1915.

MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS.

"Inprimis one faire booke all of vellam, new bound in red leather, and a kallender made to the same, by Richard Langley the present Clarck of this Company, wherein are entred the willes and devises of worthy and memorable Benefactors to this Company."

(No. 9, Cal. 1915.)

"Item one auntient booke of Ordynaunces of vellam containyng the orders, and Oathes belonging to this company."

(No. 2, Cal. 1915.)

"Item one other booke in paper, new written, and bound in red leather containyng a breif note of all the particuler conveyances or wrytinges, whereby landes and tenementes and other hereditamentes have byn devised, or otherwise assured to this company."

(No. 8, Cal. 1915.)

"Item one other booke all of vellam, new written, and bound in red leather, contayning certen braunches of Sir Thomas White's Statutes, and concernyng the Probacion and examinacion of the Companies Schoole, at St. Lawrence Pountneys."

(Incorporated in No. 10, Cal. 1915.)

"Item one other paper booke, intytuled the Companies Debt Booke."

Missing.

"Item one other paper booke, bound in black leather, contayning the severall loanes of money by brothers of this Company towards the provision and stock for Corne, which booke was new bound, and a kallender made to the same by the foresaid Richard Langley."

Missing.

"Item one other auntient booke in paper contaynyng the names of all the M's. and the Wardens of this company sithence the yere Anno Domini 1300, being the xxviiiith yere of the raigne of King Edward the first, every one in succession untill this present yere 1609."

Missing.

"Item one other paper booke, new written, and bound, with a Kallender made to the same, contayning a brief of all the companies leases."

(No. 14, Cal. 1915.)

"Item, one other lardg paper booke new written and bound in leather with claspes to yt, contaynyng the names of all such as have byn admitted into the freedome of this company sithence the xxiith yere of the raigne of King Henry the 8, Anno Domini, 1530, untill this present yere, Anno Domini 1609, with spare paper, to serve for diverse yeres longer."

(No. 15, Cal. 1915.)

In the calendar of 1618 the list is the same as in that of 1609, with the addition of :—

(1) “ Item a new booke of Ordinances all of vellam with a fayer cover contayning the orders and oathes belonging to this Company which ordinaunces and oathes have lately bin corrected, and amended and ratified, and allowed by the Lord Chauncellor, and two cheif Justices according to an Act of parliament made in that behalfe, which book was written and bound by Richard Baldock comon Clarck.”

(No. 3, Cal. 1915.)

(2) “ Item one other booke of vellam bound in redd leather wherein is written the Charters belonging to the Company in Latin on the one side and in English on the other.”

(No. 11, Cal. 1915.)

(3) OTHER BOOKS.

“ Item one fayer large booke contayning a Cronicle, and the whole survey of England given to this Company by Mr. John Speed.”

Missing.

“ Item one other booke called a generall Cronicle begunne by John Stowe, and augmented by Roger How gentleman—and by him presented to this Company.”

Missing.

“ Item one other booke of survey made by Anthony Munday and presented by him to this Company.”

Missing.

The calendar of 1689 contains a list of manuscript books and law papers not in the earlier calendar, but too long to deal with in detail here. Many of these still exist, but many are missing.

Among the latter the following appear to be the most interesting :—

A book containing Acts of Common Council of 2 Edward vi., 1 Henry viii., 8 Henry viii., 5 Philip and Mary, and 20 Elizabeth.

“A book of Committee about the Hall, Allane Cliffe, Ma^r, with an accompt of what due to the workmen.”

(Cliffe was Master in 1669, so that this book, no doubt, related to the work rendered necessary by the Fire of London and would have given particulars of the damage done to the hall.)

A book of the names of all the Liverymen from 1553 to 1602.

APPENDIX B.

List of Masters and Wardens, from 1300 to 1561.

DATE.	MASTERS.	WARDENS.	AUTHORITY.
1300	Henry de Ryall, "pilgrim"	—	<i>Stow</i> i., 181.
1351	John Pecche, "peregrinus"	William de Derby, Robert de Gyldeford, Giles de Westmull, Roger de Coloigne, "collectores elemosinarum"	Grant by John de Tottenham (<i>Wills Book</i> , p. 12).
1376	John Tilneye, "peregrinus"	Robert Hunden Robert Lyndeseye Richard de Burton William de Sudbury "custodes"	Grant by Robert Payn and others of a quit-rent out of the Saracen's Head, Friday Street (<i>Deeds</i> ii., 1).
1388	John Dymock	—	Indenture between the Prior of St. Augustine's and the Mas- ter (<i>Evidence Book</i> , p. 8).
1391	Thomas Sibsay	Stephen Hamme William Waterton John Partrich Henry Seward	Inq. a.q.d. on grant of Hall site to the Fraternity (<i>Deeds</i> i., 14). Licence in mortmain (<i>Evi- dence Book</i> , p. 9).
1392	John Orewelle, the King's ser- geant-at-Arms	John Buk Hugh Talbot John Silton Peter Fykelden	Grant of annuity to Richard Tykenore (<i>Deeds</i> i., 16).
1393	John Partrich	William Waterton John Fyssh Walter Donmowe John Whitefelde	Will of John Dimmok (<i>Wills Book</i> , p. 7).
1398	John ———	—	Master's Accounts.
1399	Clement Kyrton	—	Do.

LIST OF MASTERS AND WARDENS, FROM 1300 TO 1561—*contd.*

DATE.	MASTERS.	WARDENS.	AUTHORITY.
1400	John Fauconer	Robert Eland John Kenne Thomas de Bury John Traygos	Inq. a.q.d. on grant of Saracen's Head, Friday Street, to the Company (<i>Deeds</i> ii., 2).
1401	John Ballard	—	Master's Accounts.
1402	Robert Eland	—	Do.
1403	Richard Lynne	—	Do.
1404	Simon Lief	Ralf Bate John Fulthorpe Richard Sawyer John Seche	Will of Thomas Sibsay (<i>Wills Book</i> , p. 36).
1405	Robert Queldrik	Thomas Medbourne Sampson Benet William Surcestre Thomas Sutton	Grant of rooms in "Le Sterre," Bishopsgate Street (<i>Deeds</i> iii., 53).
1406	John Colbroke	—	Master's Accounts.
1407	Peter Mason	—	Do.
1408	Thomas Sutton	John Wenlock Thomas Wylby Adam Feryby Ralf Shokelache	Charter of 9 Henry iv.
1409	John Fulthorp	—	Master's Accounts.
1410	John Marchall	—	Do.
1411	William Tropenell	—	Do.
1412	William Warren	Richard Frepurs Robert Fennescales Thomas Drewell Gerard Lowe	Will of Peter Mason (<i>Wills Book</i> , p. 74).
1413	John Caundissh	—	Master's Accounts.
1414	Thomas Whityng- ham	—	Do.
1415	William Jowdrell	—	Do.
1416	John Weston	—	Do.
1417	William Holgrave	—	Do.

LIST OF MASTERS AND WARDENS, FROM 1300 TO 1561—*contd.*

DATE.	MASTERS.	WARDENS.	AUTHORITY.
1418	Rauf Bate	—	Master's Accounts.
1419	Ralf Holand	Ralf Shoklache John Kelyngham John de Bury John Kyng	Defeazance of bond of Thomas Sutton to the Company (<i>Deeds</i> vi., 4).
1420	Robert Feneskales	—	Master's Accounts.
1421	Ralf Shocklache	—	Do.
1422	Richard Northyn	William Chapman Henry Wylford Roger Holbech Philip Possell	Will of John Buk (<i>Wills Book</i> p. 16).
1423	John de Bury	—	Master's Accounts.
1424	Alexander Farnell	—	Do.
1425	Richard Reynold	—	Do.
1426	John Caston	—	Do.
1427	John Knotte	—	Do.
1428	William Chapman	—	Do.
1429	Philip Possell	John Westwode Thomas Chichele John Belhom Pirs Savery	Do. Ordinances (<i>Misc. Docs.</i> , A.2)
1430	Yon Thorne	—	Master's Accounts.
1431	Geffrey Gibbon	John Pecke John Partriche John Locck John Bale	Will of Thomas Sutton (<i>Wills Book</i> , p. 90).
1432	Roger Holbech	—	Master's Accounts.
1433	John Kyng	—	Do.
1434	John Legge	—	Do.
1435	John Pecke	Richard Skernyng John Locok Richard Benton Harry Bovyngton	Ordinances (<i>Misc. Docs.</i> , A.2).

APPENDIX B.

III

LIST OF MASTERS AND WARDENS, FROM 1300 TO 1561—*contd.*

DATE.	MASTERS.	WARDENS.	AUTHORITY.
1436	Thomas Davy	John Belham Thomas Reymond Watkin White Harry Rayle	Ordinances (<i>Misc. Docs., A. 2</i>).
1437	John Arcall	—	Master's Accounts.
1438	John Bale	John Belham William Forster, the elder William Forster, the younger John Gylle	Do. Ordinances (<i>Misc. Docs., A. 2</i>).
1439	John Locok	Nicholas Blome John Stone Thomas White William Knotte	Charter of 18 Henry vi.
1440	Piers Saverey	—	Master's Accounts.
1441	Richard Skernyng	Richard Chalkyll James Caton Stephen Pirs Richard Atkyns	Ordinances (<i>Misc. Docs., A. 2</i>).
1442	William Fyge	—	Master's Accounts.
1443	William Auntrus	—	Do.
1444	John Langewith	—	Do.
1445	Thomas Gay	Walter White Richard Giles Richard Glover Richard Atkyns	Will of Ralph Holand (H.R. 198 (31)).
1446	Thomas Reymond	—	Ordinances (<i>Misc. Docs., A. 2</i>).
1447 ^(a)	Richard Benton	—	Ancient Minute Book (<i>vol. i., f. 4^b</i>).
1448	William Foster	William Latoner William Knotte George Aishton Stephen Piers	Ordinances (<i>Misc. Docs., A. 2</i>).
1449	John Stone	John Giffard William Boylet John Hole John Roun	Do.
1450 ^a	Thomas Breux	—	Master's Accounts (<i>vol. ii., f. 25^b</i>).

LIST OF MASTERS AND WARDENS, FROM 1300 TO 1561—*contd.*

DATE.	MASTERS.	WARDENS.	AUTHORITY.
1451	John Gylle	Richard Rooke John Hille John Spenser John Weche	Wills of Ralf Holand and Idonia Halleyate (<i>Wills Book, pp. 19 and 23</i>).
1452	William Latyner	—	Master's Accounts (<i>vol. ii., f. 20</i>).
1453	William Knotte	—	Do.
1454	John Belham	—	Do.
1455	George Asshton	—	Do.
1456	John Prynce	Thomas Pye Richard Sutton John Martyn Thomas Burgeys	Ancient Book of Ordinances, <i>f. 17 (Book 2)</i> .
1457	John Jordan	—	Master's Accounts.
1458	William Boylet	—	Do.
1459	William Langdon	Robert Colwych John Snowdon Richard Bristall William Blakeman	Will of Richard Tolle (<i>Wills Book, p. 27</i>).
1460	Robert Colwich	—	Master's Accounts.
1461	John Derby	—	Do.
1462	William Person	—	Do.
1463	Roger Tygo	William Blakman John Kyng Robert Bradmere William Marchall	Will of Hugh Champernon (<i>Wills Book, p. 33</i>).
1464	John Fayreford	—	Master's Accounts.
1465	John Stodard	Gilbert Kays William Parker John Swan Robert Walthowe	Charter of 5 Edward iv.
1466	John Phelip	John Lee	Master's Accounts.
1467	Thomas Burgeys	John Kyffyn William Marchall Roger Waren Richard Nayler	Will of Elen Langwith (<i>Wills Book, p. 25</i>).

LIST OF MASTERS AND WARDENS, FROM 1300 TO 1561—*contd*

DATE.	MASTERS.	WARDENS.	AUTHORITY.
1468	Walter Barow	Peter Cyvile Robert Bradmere Thomas Humfrey John ———	Lease recited in grant to John Dodyngton (<i>Land Revenue Enrolments</i> , vol. 330, f. 67).
1469	William Parker	John Kyffin Richard Nayler Richard Warner William Crosseby	Ancient Minute Books (vol. i., f. 22).
1470	John Swanne	—	Master's Accounts.
1471	William Gall	—	Do.
1472	Roger Warynge	—	Do.
1473	Gilbert Keys	Richard Adyff John ——— — —	Ancient Minute Books (vol. i., f. 206).
1474	Richard Bristall	—	Master's Accounts.
1475	Richard Nayler	—	Do.
1476	John Phelip and Richard Warner	—	Do.
1477	Robert Middleton	—	Do.
1478 ^(a)	Richard West	—	Ancient Minute Books (vol. ii., ff. 44 & 52 ^b).
1479	Roger Barlowe	—	Master's Accounts.
1480	John Materdale	—	Do.
1481	Robert Duplege	Ewen Boughton John Warner James Shyrwode John Potman	Ancient Book of Ordinances, f. 216.
1482	Hugh Pemberton	—	Master's Accounts.
1483	John Lee	—	Do.
1484 ^(c)	—	—	—
1485	Sir John Percyvale	—	Ancient Minute Books (vol. i., f. 3).

LIST OF MASTERS AND WARDENS, FROM 1300 TO 1561—*contd.*

DATE.	MASTERS.	WARDENS.	AUTHORITY.
1486	Thomas Cotton	Thomas Randell John Barnard William Grene George Lufkyn	Ancient Minute Books (<i>vol. i., f. 5b</i>).
1487	John Hede	—	Do. (<i>vol. ii., ff. 52^b & 59^b</i>).
1488	William Buk	Oliver Warner James Wilford Thomas Petyt John Doket	Do. (<i>vol. ii., f. 1</i>).
1489	Stephen Jenyns	William Grene John Bernard Thomas Bodley Peter Forster	Do. (<i>vol. ii., f. 11b</i>).
1490	John Spencer	Thomas Bromeflete Thomas Howdan Roger Mone Richard Hille	Do. (<i>vol. ii., f. 25</i>).
1491	William Hert	Henry Clough Nicholas Nynes Henry Kellowe Rauf Bukberd	Do. (<i>vol. ii., f. 34b</i>).
1492	Walter Povy	John Doget Thomas Petyt Richard Dyngley John Povy	Do. (<i>vol. ii., f. 42</i>).
1493	Thomas Randell	Richard Hill John Kyrkeby Thomas Bedford Richard Smyth	Do. (<i>vol. ii., f. 70</i>).
1494	James Wylford	Thomas Howden Roger Mone William FitzWilliam Robert Kelambe	Treasury Account, <i>f. 9 (Book 4)</i> .
1495	Ewin Boughton	John Povey James Grene Edmond Floure John Herst	Do. <i>f. 9b</i> .
1496	Nicholas Nynes	John Kyrkeby Richard Smyth Thomas Werton Richard Conhill	Do. <i>f. 11.</i>

LIST OF MASTERS AND WARDENS, FROM 1300 TO 1561—*contd.*

DATE.	MASTERS.	WARDENS.	AUTHORITY.
1497	Thomas Petyt	Roger Mone Rauf Bukberd John Bodyam William Batyson	Treasury Account, <i>f.</i> 11.
1498	Thomas Brome- felde	William FitzWilliam Thomas Pole Hugh Acton —	Do <i>f.</i> 25.
1499	William FitzWilliam	Richard Smyth Edmond Flowre Richard Toll Thomas Speight	Do. <i>f.</i> 12 <i>b</i> .
1500	John Doget	John Bodyam Richard Conhill Thomas Gardyner George Sall	Do. <i>f.</i> 13 <i>b</i> .
1501	John Kyrkeby	John Bernard Robert Kelambe Robert Johnson Humfrey Ruggeley	Do. <i>f.</i> 15.
1502	Richard Smyth	Hugh Acton William Batyson John Skevyngton James Moncastre	Charter of 18 Henry vii.
1503	Edmund Flowre	Richard Conhyll Thomas Speyght Robert Colson John Wright	Ancient Book of Ordinances, <i>f.</i> 32.
1504 ^(c)	—	—	—
1505 ^(c)	Thomas Howdan	—	—
1506	Richard Conhill	Thomas Speyght Humfrey Ruggeley John Breton Robert Farethwatte	Ancient Book of Ordinances, <i>f.</i> 42.
1507	William Grene	John Tresawell John Wright Richard Hall John Sexsy	Do. <i>f.</i> 38 <i>b</i>
1508 ^(c)	—	—	—

LIST OF MASTERS AND WARDENS, FROM 1300 TO 1561—*contd.*

DATE.	MASTERS.	WARDENS.	AUTHORITY.
1509	Thomas Speight	Henry Dacre Richard Hall George Harward John Benet	Treasury Account, <i>f.</i> 28.
1510	John Skevyngton	George Sall Henry Dacres Gefferey Vaughan John Harryes	Do. <i>f.</i> 28.
1511	John Tresawell	John Wright Robert Fayrethwatte John Nechilles Thomas Cole	Do. <i>f.</i> 27. Charter of Henry viii.
1512	—	—	—
1513	John Breton	Robert Farethwaite William Wilford Paul Wythipoll John Handford	Grant of rent-charge to James Wylford (<i>Deeds</i> xviii., 1).
1514	Henry Dacres	John Dexey John Harreys Robert Shethor James Mighel	Grant of rent-charge to Isabel Howdan (<i>Deeds</i> vii., 1).
1515	John Wright	William Wylford George Harward William Copland John Causton	Release by Richard Gryston of the Saracen's Head, Bread Street (<i>Deeds</i> iv., 2).
1516	Richard Hall	Gefferey Vaughan Paule Wythipoll William Hilton Robert Fell	Agreement with Salter's Com- pany (<i>Wills Book</i> , <i>p.</i> 288).
1517	—	—	—
1518	William Wilford	John Nechilles John Benett Richard Gibson Richard Houlte	Will of John Tresawell (<i>Wills Book</i> , <i>p.</i> 118).
1519	—	—	—
1520	Geoffrey Vaughan	Paule Withipol John Hanforth John Cooke William Heton	Will of John Harris (<i>Wills Book</i> , <i>p.</i> 114).

APPENDIX B.

117

LIST OF MASTERS AND WARDENS, FROM 1300 TO 1561—*contd.*

DATE.	MASTERS.	WARDENS.	AUTHORITY.
1521	John Gonne	Thomas Cole Robert Shethar Robert Wade Henry Clidro	Will of Giles Slater (<i>Wills Book</i> , p. 95).
1522	John Nichelles	John Benett James Mighell John Jenkyns John God	Grant of Annuity to Henry Hyll (<i>H.R.</i> 239 (11)).
1523	Paul Wythipoll	—	—
1524	—	—	—
1525	—	—	—
1526	Robert Shethar	Richard Panell William Brans Henry Hobylthorne William Wylford, the younger	Acknowledgment of trust of James Wylford (<i>Deeds</i> xviii., 4).
1527	Hugh Acton	Robert Pagett George Harryson John Skute Henry Sukley	Will of Thomas Speight (<i>Wills Book</i> , p. 77).
1528 ^(e)	John Benett	—	—
1529 ^(d)	—	—	—
1530	Richard Gibson	Richard Bucklonde William Kyrkeby Thomas Whyte Robert Dawbney	Will of Thomas Speight (<i>Wills Book</i> , p. 99).
1531	Richard Houlte	Henry Dewford William Jerrold Henry Polstead Roberte Wilford	Will of Thomas Speight (<i>Wills Book</i> , p. 104).
1532	Henry Hobilthorn	John Jenkyns John Copeland, the elder John Malte William Hewetson	Grant of rent-charge to Thomas Coole for Sir William FitzWilliam (<i>Deeds</i> xi., 1).
1533 1534 1535 1536 1537 1538 1539 1540 1541	William Wilford, the younger John Scutt Thomas White John Malte	—	{ These men served as Masters during this period, but the actual dates and order of succession are uncertain.

LIST OF MASTERS AND WARDENS, FROM 1300 TO 1561—*contd.*

DATE.	MASTERS.	WARDENS.	AUTHORITY.
1542	Stephen Kyrton	—	Court Minutes (<i>vol. ii., f. 4^b</i>).
1543 ^(a)	—	—	—
1544	Robert Dawbeney	— Raffe Davenett William Barlowe	Master's and Wardens' Accounts (1445-6).
1545	Thomas Broke	Nycholas Cosen Henry Brayne Walter Yonge Richard Tonge	Certificate of Chantry Rents (<i>Misc. Docs., A. 4 (2)</i>).
1546	Thomas Brooke and Richard Holte	Richard Wadyngton Robert Mellyshe Harry Cooke Willyam Rygeley	Master's and Wardens' Accounts.
1547	Thomas Offley	— Emmanuell Lucar John Wethers	Do.
1548	Richard Wadyngton	— George Heton Thomas Rowe	Do.
1549	Nicholas Cosyn	— Symon Lowe Edward Lee	Do.
1550	Robert Mellyshe	— Nicholas Wolberd William Body	Do.
1551	Richard Botyll	— Thomas Acworthe Robert Rose	Do.
1552	John Jakes	Ralf Davenett John Wethers Thomas Richardes Raffe Whyte	Will of Richard Botyll (<i>Wills Book, p. 89</i>).
1553	William Harper	— Richard Whethyll William Merycke	Master's and Wardens' Accounts.

LIST OF MASTERS AND WARDENS, FROM 1300 TO 1561—*contd.*

DATE.	MASTERS.	WARDENS.	AUTHORITY.
1554	Guy Wade	[George] Heton [Thomas] Rowe [Richard] Hilles [John] God	Diary of Henry Machyn, <i>p.</i> 91 (<i>Cam. Soc.</i> , 1848).
1555	William Clyfton	— — Thomas Walker Francis Pope	Master's and Wardens' Accounts.
1556	George Heton	Thomas Bowe (? Rowe) Thomas Acworthe John Olyff Thomas Browne	Accounts of Pageants, <i>f.</i> 4 (<i>Book</i> 7).
1557	Symon Lowe	Richard Tonge Richard Whetell William Sylward Stephen Hales	Charter of Philip and Mary.
1558	Edward Ley	—	—
1559	Thomas Acworth	Richard Whetyll Richard Whight Thomas Thomlynson Gerard Gore	Charter of Elizabeth.
1560	Emmanuel Lucar	Robert Rose William Merycke Robert Duckynnton John Sparke	Machyn's Diary (<i>p.</i> 380, <i>notes</i>).
1561	Richard Hilles	William Rigeley Francis Pope William Albany Robert Hulson	Account of Pageants, <i>f.</i> 106.

NOTES TO APPENDIX B.

(a) Richard Benton appears as a past master in 1486 (Ancient Minute Books, vol. i., *f.* 4^b). As the only vacant years between 1397 (which is too early) and 1453 are 1447 and 1450, he must have been master in one of these two last-mentioned years. He was warden in 1435, and was senior to William Foster who was master in 1448, and John Stone who was master in 1449, and I have therefore inserted his name in 1447.

Thomas Breux is described in the Master's Accounts for 1453-4 as a former master, and must therefore have been master either in 1447 or 1450. I have inserted his name in 1450 as I have already inserted Benton's name in 1447.

(b) Richard West appears in lists of "the xxiv men," otherwise the Court of Assistants, in the mastership of Walter Povy, 1492. As the only vacant years between 1450 and 1492 are 1478 and 1484, and West's name appears in these lists immediately before Roger Barlow, who was master in 1479, I have assumed that he was master in 1478.

(c) Thomas Howden or Howdan is described as "late master" in the inventory made in the mastership of John Tresawell, who was master in 1511. Howdan was warden in 1490 and 1494. As the only vacant years between 1484 and 1511 are 1504, 1505 and 1508, he must have been master in one of those three years, so I have inserted his name in 1505.

(d) Mr. Clode suggests that Hugh Acton, the elder, was probably master for 1508, because he was one of the twelve representatives of the twelve great companies, appointed by the Common Council to attend the Lord Mayor, Sir Stephen Jenyns (who was a merchant taylor), at the coronation of Henry viii. He may have been master this year, but I can find no evidence of it or that any of the other representatives were masters of their respective companies. Hugh Acton, who was master in 1527, was, according to Mr. Clode, a son of Hugh Acton, the elder. (Early History, ii, *pp.* 34 & 99).

(e) In all lists of members of the Company, the prefix "Mr." before a man's name indicated that he had served the office of master or, sometimes, of sheriff. Until a member of the Court had so served, he was described simply by his Christian and surnames. If an alderman, he was so described and his name appeared at the head of the list. In former days, it seems, that aldermen and those that had served the office of sheriff were, if they so desired, excused from service as master.

A list of members of the Company assessed for the provision of corn in the year 1546-7 includes the following names of members of the Court who had already served the office of master (unless excused for the reasons given above), viz. : Alderman John Wilford, Alderman Thomas White (warden, 1530), Mr. (Henry) Suckley (warden, 1527, and sheriff, 1541), Mr. (Paul) Wethypoll (warden, 1513), Mr. (John) Bennet (warden, 1518), Mr. John Scutt or Skute (warden, 1527), Mr. (John) Malte (warden, 1532).

In the Court Minutes commencing in 1562, the following additional names occur, viz. : Alderman Thomas Rowe (warden, 1554), Mr. Edward Ley or Lee (warden, 1549), Mr. William Wilford (the younger, warden, 1526). Between 1512 and 1533 there are seven vacant years. Wethypoll and Bennet probably served in two of those years. As Wethypoll was warden again in 1520, and Bennet in 1522, the earliest dates at which either is likely to have served is 1523. I have placed Wethypoll's name in 1523 and Bennet's in 1528, as he was junior to Robert Shetlar, who was master in 1526.

Between 1532 and 1544 there are ten vacant years. I have inserted in that period the names of William Wilford the younger, Scutt, White and Malte, as they could only have served during those years, and I have placed them in the order in which they became wardens. I can find no evidence that either Alderman John Wilford or Alderman Sir Thomas Rowe ever served as master.

Rowe was elected alderman in 1559. Mr. Clode, on the strength of a passage in Machyn's Diary (*f.* 149), says he was master in 1557, but he certainly was not, for our records clearly show that Symon Lowe was master in that year. In referring to him as "Master Row," Machyn, I think, was simply using an ordinary title of courtesy, and does not mean that he was master of the Company. (*Early History*, ii., 147.)

The following are described as wardens, but it is impossible to identify their years. Thomas Lee (Master's Accounts, 1458, *f.* 150), John More (Master's Accounts, 1467, *ff.* 317b & 333b.), and Thomas Midilton (Master and Warden's Accounts, 1551.)

INDEX.

- Account books, 22-23, 101-103
 Acton, Hugh, 67, 115, 117, 120
 Acworth, Acworthe, Thomas, 118, 119
 Adyff, Richard, 113
 Agincourt, battle of, 86
 Aishton, Asshton, George, 111, 112
 Albany, William, 119
 Aldermanbury, conduit in, 88
 Aldersgate Street, 84
 ———, the "George" in, 84
 Alegate, *otherwise* Crepin, Ralph de, 54, 55
 All Hallows' Barking, parish of, 51
 ———, chapel of, 53
 ——— the Great, parish of, 68, 70
 ——— in the Elmes, *see* All Hallows, Lombard Street
 ———, Lombard Street, 50
 Almshouses of the Merchant Taylors' Company, 25, 27, 81, 96
 ———, *see* Lee; Sherbourne
 Alport, Mr. Warden, 24
 America, 37
 Anchor Alley, 58
 Ancyent, ensign, 50
 Antiphoner, 95
 Apprentice books, 103-104
 Apprentices, 43
 Apprenticeship of girl, articles of, 25
 Arc, Joan of, 71
 Arcall, John, 111
 Ardingelli, Roger, 86
 Armour, 26
 Armourer, 26
 Arms of England, 88, 89
 Arundel, Richard FitzAlan, 6th earl of, 69, 70
 Ashurst, Sir Henry, 42
 Assemblies, 22
 Assessments, receipts for, 27
 Assistants, *see* Court
 Atkyns, Richard, 111
 Attorney-General, proceedings by, 9, 10, 15
 ———, *see* Banks, Sir John
 Aumondesham, Edmund de, 56
 ———, Alice, his mother, 56
 Auntrus, William, 111
 Aystwick, John, 9
 Bachelors' Company, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 41, 81, 82
 ———, clerk of, *see* Silverwood
 ———, wardens substitutes of, 82
 ——— or Yoman companies, 10, 11
 Backwell, Edward, 60, 61, 62, 63
 ———, John, 60, 62, 63
 Bacon, Fraunces, Lord, 54
 ———, Sir Nicholas, 54
 Baldewyn, William, 44
 Baldock, Richard (Clerk), 13
 Balduchi, Francis, 86
 Bale, John, 110, 111
 Ballard, John, 109
 Banks, Sir John, 24
 Bardi, Doffus de, 85
 ———, Lapus de, 85
 ———, Society of, 85, 86, 89
 Barlowe, Roger, 113, 120
 ———, William, 118
 Barnard, Bernard, John, 113, 114, 115
 Barow, Walter, 113
 Basinghall Street, White Bear in, 24
 Bate, Ralf, 109, 110
 Bath, city of, 76
 ——— and Wells, John Stafford, Bishop of, 86, 87, 88
 ———, Thomas Bekyngton, Bishop of, 46-47
 Batyson, William, 115
 Beauchamp, Richard, *see* Warwick, Earl of
 Beaufort, John, *see* Somerset, Earl of
 Bechewood, 84
 Bedford, Hugh de, 55
 ———, Joan, his wife, 55
 ———, Thomas, 114
 ——— Grammar School, founder of, 23
 Bekyngton, Thomas, 46
 Belham, Belhom, John, 6, 110, 111, 112
 Bell, George, 26
 Benbrigge's Inn, *see* Penbrigge's Inn
 "Benefactors' Gifts," book of, 21
 Benet, Benett, John, 116, 117

- Benet, Benett, Sampson, 109
 Benton, Richard, 110, 111, 119*n*
 Bere, William, 91
 Berwick, naturalized subject forbidden
 to dwell in, 84
 Beswick, Alderman, 73
 Bible "of St. Hierosmes translation," 82
 Bigg, Walter, 94, 95
 Billesden, Sir Thomas, 8
 Billingsgate, Fellowship Porters of, 51
 —————, Court
 House of, 51
 ————— Ward, deputy of, 51
 Billyngford, James, 56
 Bishopsgate Street, "le Sterre" in, 56,
 57, 109
 —————, *see* St. Helen's
 Bishop's Head Tavern, 90
 Blakeman, Blakman, William, 112
 Blanch Apleton, manor of, 47-48
 "Blewe Bell," the, 50
 Blome, Nicholas, 111
 Bodley, Thomas, 114
 Body, William, 118
 Bodyam, John, 115
 Bohun, John, 88
 —————, grandson of, *see* Owen
 Bonwick, Jacob, 25
 Boone, Christopher, 96
 —————, Mary, 96
 Botyll, Richard, 68, 73, 118
 Boughton, Ewen, 113, 114
 Bovyngton, Harry, 110
 Bow Church, 45
 ————— Lane, 45
 Bowe (Rowe ?), Thomas, 119
 Bowen, —, actor, 89
 Boyle, Robert, 42
 ————— lectures, 42
 Boylett, William, 111, 112
 Bradmere, Robert, 112, 113
 Bradshaw, Peter, 37
 Bradstreete, *see* Threadneedle Street
 —————, ward of, 65
 Brans, William, 117
 Brayne, Henry, 118
 Brayntry, New England, 37
 Bread Street, Saracen's Head in, 57,
 117
 Bretagne, Dukes of, 84
 Breton, John, 115, 116
 Breux, Thomas, 111, 120
 Brewers' Company, 53, 54
 Bridewell, 50
 Bridport, charities in, 42
 Bristall, Richard, 112, 113
 Bristol, city of, 67, 75, 76
 Broke, Brooke, Thomas, 113
 Bromefelde, Bromefelte, Thomas, 114,
 115
 Bromholme Alley, 59
 Brooks, Richard, master corn meter,
 51
 Brown, Stephen, 60
 Browne, Thomas, 119
 Buckhound, receipt for, 24
 Buckingham, Edward Stafford, Duke
 of, 72, 73
 —————, George Villiers, Duke of, 94
 Bucklersbury, 57
 Bucklonde, Richard, 117
 Buckridge, George, 84
 Builders' accounts, 23, 28
 Buk, John, 108, 110
 —————, Buke, William, 6, 114
 Bukberd, Rauf, 114, 115,
 Bull, Dr. John, 73
 Burgage tenure, *see* London, custom
 of
 Burgeys, Thomas, 112
 Burghley, Lord, 32
 Burton, Richard de, 108
 Bury, John de, 110
 —————, Thomas de, 109
 Calais, 71
 Calendar of 1689, 3, 14, 99-107
 Calendars of 1609 and 1618, 3, 13,
 99-107
 Cambridge, King's College at, "con-
 ductes" at, 34
 —————, Trinity College at, "con-
 ductes" at, 34
 —————, town of, 76
 —————, Edmund, Earl of, *see* York,
 Duke of
 Candlewick Street, Cannon Street, 59,
 64, 95
 Candyssh, *see* Caundyssh
 Cannon Street, *see* Candlewick Street
 Canterbury, city of, 76
 —————, John Stafford, Archbishop
 of, 87
 —————, William Laud, Archbishop
 of, 29
 Capital and Counties Bank, 57
 Carleton, Thomas, 6
 Cartwright, Robert, 41
 Caston, John, 110
 Caton, James, 111
 Caundissh, Caundyssh, Candyssh,
 Cavendish, Hugh, 59, 60
 —————, John, 109
 —————, Lady Rose, 59
 —————, William, 59
 ————— Alley, 59
 Causton, John, 116
 Cavendish, *see* Caundyssh
 Chalkyll, Richard, 111
 Champernon, Hugh, 112

- Chancellor, Lord, title of, 87
 Chantry lands, 31, 33-35, 58, 63, 64, 65, 66
 —, certificate of, 34, *see*
 also Concealed lands
 Chapman, William, 110
 Charity Commission, 42, 96, 97
 Charles I., loans to, 15, 40
 Charles II., 61, 79
 —, charters of City and
 Companies surrendered to, 30
 Charterhouse, 77
 Charters, 29-32, 106
 —, charter of Charles II., 29, 30
 — Edward III., 29,
 30
 — Edward IV., 29
 — Elizabeth, 29
 — Henry IV., 29,
 30, 110
 — Henry VI., 29
 — Henry VII., 8, 29,
 30
 — Henry VIII., 29
 — James I., 29
 — James II., 29
 — Richard II., 29, 30
 —, *see* London
 Chaucer, Geoffrey; Alice, grand-
 daughter of, *see* Suffolk
 Cheapside, 45
 Chester, West Chester, city of, 76
 —, mayor and citizens of, 91, 92
 —, poor inhabitants of, 91
 —, seal of, 91
 —, Sir William, 90, 91
 Chichele, Thomas, 6, 110
 Chirchman, John, 6, 55-57
 Christ Church, Newgate Street, 83
 Christ's Hospital, gift to, 81
 —, teaching of music
 at, 82, 83
 Churchman, John, 26
 City Arms Tavern, 90
 Clarendon, Lord, 32
 Clerk, *see* Common Clerk
 Chdro, Henry, 117
 Cliffe, Alan, 107
 Clifford's Inn, Fire Commissioners
 sitting at, 19
 Clothworkers' Company, 38
 —, manor of, 38, 39
 Clough, Henry, 114
 Clyfton, William, 119
 Cobham of Sterborough, Reginald,
 Lord, 46
 —, Sir Reginald,
 46
 Cockes, Thomas, 53
 Coke, Lord, 32
 Colbroke, John, 109
 Colchester, city of, 76
 Cold Harborough, 68-71
 Cole, Coole, Thomas, 63, 116, 117
 Coleraine, 38, 40
 Collett, Dean of St. Paul's, 78
 Colloigne, Roger de, 108
 Colson, Robert, 115
 Colwich, Colwych, Robert, 112
 Commissioners for Compounding, 94
 Common Clerk, 91, 92, *see* Baldock,
 Duryvale, Langley, Wright
 Common Council, Book of Acts of, 15,
 107
 Commonwealth, Army & Navy of, 27
 Companies, City, admission to liveries
 of, 24
 —, charters of sur-
 rendered, 30
 —, charters of restored,
 31
 —, loan by, 48
 —, plantation of Ulster
 by, *see* Ulster
 —, provision of corn
 by, 17, 18
 Concealed lands, 31, 57, *see* Chantry
 lands
 "Conduces," 33
 Confiscation, Act of, 94
 Conhill, Conhyll, Richard, 114, 115
 Coningrue, Ralf de, 56
 "Convivium," Dowe's, *see* Dinners
 Cooke, Harry, 118
 —, John, 116
 Copeland, John, the elder, 117
 Copland, William, 116
 Cork, first Earl of, 42
 Corn, contributions and loans for,
 12, 17, 18, 27, 105
 —, foreign, 18
 —, prices of, 17, 27
 Cornhill, 54, 60, 62, 63, 85, 86, 88
 —, Turk's Head in, 60
 —, *see* St. Michael's, St. Peter's
 Corn Meter, *see* Brooks, Richard
 Cornwaill, Sir John, 71
 "Corporation, the new," 24
 Cosen, Cosyn, Nicholas, 118
 Cotton, Sir John, 52
 —, Sir Robert, 52
 —, Thomas, 114
 Coulson, John, 95
 Court of Assistants, 6, 7, 21, 22
 Court Minutes, Books of, 21, 99, 101
 Courts, ordinary, 22
 —, quarterly, 22
 Coventry, city of, 76
 —, Mary, 94
 —, Thomas, 94

- Coventry, Thomas, Lord, 94
 Craven, Sir William, 88
 Creek, Creyke, John, 46
 Crepin, Edmund, 54, *see also* Alegate ;
 Glovernia
 Cressingham Lane, 58
 Cripplegate, conduit in, 88
 Cromwell, Oliver, 19, 39
 Croome Dabitott, 94
 Crosseby, William, 113
 Crowmer, William, 46
 Crown lands, sale of, 77
 —, tenure of, 77
 Croyland, abbey of, 63
 Cyvile, Peter, 113
- Dacre, Dacres, Henry, 116
 Dalton, John, 53
 Danby, Margaret, 95
 Dandy, Andrew, 95
 Danzig, corn imported from, 18
 Davenett, Raffie, 118
 Davy, Thomas, 111
 Dawbeney, Dawbney, Robert, 117, 118
 Deane, William, 35
 Derby, Town of, 76
 —, John, 112
 —, William de, 108
 Dewford, Henry, 117
 Dexey, *see* Sexcy
 Dimmok, Dymock, John, 108
 Dinners, bills for, 25-26
 —, Dowe's gifts for, 81, 82
 — (election), licence to pro-
 vide fish for
 — (election), antiquity of, 32
 — (Quarter-day), 27
 Dobson, James, 24
 Documents, classification of, 5
 Dodyngton, John, 113
 Doget, Doket, John, 114, 115
 Donmowe, Walter, 108
 Dowe, Robert, 81-83
 Dowgate, 75
 —, Fruiterers' Hall in, 75
 —, "Olde Hall" in, 75
 — Hill, 59
 Downes, John, 41
 Drapers' Company, 91
 —, clerk of, *see* Bere
 —, court of assistants
 of, 91
 —, seal of, 91
 Drewell, Thomas, 109
 Drypool, Agnes, 58
 Duckynton, Robert, 119
 Dudley, Robert, *see* Leicester, Earl of
 Dunkirk, sale of, 61
 Duplege, Robert, 113
 Duryvale, William (Clerk), 7
- Dyngley, Richard, 114
- Eastfield, Estfeld, Sir William, 86, 88
 —, grand-
 son of, *see* Bohun
 East Greenwich, manor of, 77, 78
 — India Company, 16
 "Eavesdroppings," 44
 Ecclesiastical Commissioners, 55, 78
 Edelmeton, John de, 44
 Edward i., 59
 — ii., 85
 — iii., 20, 45, 85, 86, 88, 91
 —, charters of, *see* Charters
 — iv., 47, 72
 —, charter of, 29
 —, Queen of, *see* Woodville
 — vi., Act of, 31, 33, 34
 —, Chantry Commissioners
 of, 63
 —, grant by, 79
 —, the Black Prince, 71
 Eland, Robert, 109
 Elbow Lane, 75
 Elizabeth, Queen, 53, 57, 64, 77
 —, charter of, 29
 —, tailor to, 65
 Ellesmere, Lord, 32
 Elsing Spital, 93
 Esterfeld, John, 67
 —, Scolastica, 67
 Estfeld, *see* Eastfield
 Eton College, "conductes" at, 33-34
 Evidence Book, 13
 Exchange, site of, *see* Royal Exchange
 —, Alley, 60, 63
 Exeter, city of, 76
 —, tailors of, 11
 —, Edmund Stafford, Bishop of,
 87
 —, Henry Courtenay, Marquis of,
 72
 —, John Holland, Earl of
 Huntingdon, 1st Duke of, 70, 73
 —, 2nd Duke of, 70, 71,
 73
- Fairfax, Lord, 24, 27
 Farethwaite, Fayrethwatte, Robert,
 115, 116
 Farnell, Alexander, 110
 Fauconer, John, 109
 Fayreford, John, 112
 Fell, Robert, 116
 Fellowes, William, 95
 Fenchurch Street, 47, 59
 Feneskales, Fennescales, Robert, 109,
 110
 Ferrard, Edmund, 85
 Feryby, Adam, 109

- Fire of London, 4, 19, 61, 74, 107
 Fish, Walter, 64, 65
 Fissh, John, 108
 FitzAlan, *see* Arundel, Earl of
 FitzGerald, *see* Kildare, Earl of
 FitzRoger, John, 54
 ———, Roger, 54, 55
 FitzWilliam, Sir William, 44, 63, 65, 115
 Flanders, 52
 Fleet Street, standard in, 88
 Flemynge, Michael, 8
 Florence, Society of the Bardi of, *see* Bardi
 Floure, Flowre, Edmond, 114, 115
 "Flyenge Horse," the, 50
 Forcetti, Dinus, 86
 Forreins, foreigners, 11, 25
 Forriett Monachorum, 16
 Forster, Peter, 114
 ———, William, the elder, 111
 ———, ———, the younger, 111
 Foster, William, 111, 119, *n.*
 France, Charles vii. of, 72
 ———, Louis xii. of, 46
 ———, Regent, of Henry vj. in, *see* Warwick
 Fray, John, 86
 Freemen, books of, 12, 14, 105
 ———, numbers of, 43
 Frepurs, Richard, 109
 Friday Street, 45
 ———, Saracen's Head in, 55, 66, 108, 109
 Fruiterers' Hall, *see* Dowgate
 Fulthorp, Fulthorpe, John, 109
 Fyge, William, 111
 Fykelden, Peter, 108

 Gall, William, 113
 Galley Key, 51
 Gardyner, Thomas, 115
 Garlands used on election day, 26
 Gay, Thomas, 111
 Genoa, strangers of, 51
 Gibbon, Geoffrey, 110
 Gibson, Richard, 116, 117
 Giffard, John, 111
 Giles, Richard, 111
 Gloucester, city of, 76
 Gloucestershire, lands in, 75
 Glover, Richard, 111
 Glovernia, *otherwise* Crepin, Walter de, 54
 God, John, 117
 Godfrey, Cornelius, 84, 85
 ———, Daniel, 84
 Goldsmith, Alicant, 89
 ———, English, 89
 Gonne, John, 117

 Gore, Gerard, 119
 Grasshopper, *see* Lombard Street
 Gray, Henry, 84
 Great Conduit, 57
 ——— Crosby School, 24
 Grene, James, 114
 ———, William, 114, 115
 Gresham, Sir Thomas, 61, 62
 Grey, Lady Jane, 79
 ———, Henry, *see* Suffolk, Duke of
 Gryston, Richard, 116
 Guilds, city, *see* Companies
 Gyldeford, Robert de, 108
 Gylle, John, 111, 112

 Haberdashers, Fraternity of St. Katherine of, 67
 Hales, Stephen, 119
 Hall, Merchant Taylors', 4, 23, 66, 107
 ———, chapel, 7
 ———, garden, 27
 ———, King's chamber, 27, 109
 ———, site of, 8, 9, 46, 54, 108
 ———, soldiers billeted at, 24
 ———, tax on, 27
 Hall, Richard, 115, 116
 Halleyate, Idonia, 58, 111
 ———, John, 58
 Hamme, Stephen, 108
 Hampden, John, 16
 Handford, Hanforth, John, 116
 Harper, Dame Margaret, 23
 Harper, Sir William, 11, 23, 118
 Harreys, Harris, Harryes, John, 116
 Harrison, Thomas, 37
 Harryson, George, 117
 Harward, George, 116
 Haselwood, Edmund, 57
 Haunsard, William, 52
 Hede, John, 114
 Henry iv., 45, 70
 ———, charter of, *see* Charters
 Henry vi., 34, 47
 ———, charter of, *see* Charters
 ———, tutor to, *see* Warwick
 Henry vii., act of, 32, 72
 ———, charter of, *see* Charters
 ———, Margaret, daughter of, 8
 ———, subsidy demanded by, 8
 Henry viii., 67
 ———, acts of, 33, 48
 ———, charter of, *see* Charters
 ———, coronation of, 120
 ———, loan to, 48-49
 ———, mortgage by, 48-49
 Hereford, city of, 76
 Herst, John, 114
 Hert, William, 114
 Hethe, John, 68, 73
 Heton, George, 118, 119

- Heton, William, 116
 Hewetson, William, 117
 Highbury, 88
 Highways, bequest for repair of, 66
 Hill, Hille, John, 112
 ———, Richard, 114
 Hilles, Richard, 119
 Hilton, William, 116
 Hobilthorn, Hobylthorne, Hubbat-
 horne, Henry, 48, 117
 Hoe, John, 76
 Holbeck, Roger, 110
 Hole, John, 111
 Holgrave, William, 109
 Holland, Holand, John, *see* Exeter,
 Duke of
 ———, Ralph, 58, 110, 111, 112
 Holleweye, Eustace de, 59
 Holte, Houlte, Richard, 116, 117
 Holy Trinity the Less, parish of, 65
 ———, Minorities, parish of, 79
 Horesheew Bridge, 59
 Hornsey, parish of, 94
 How, Roger, 106
 Howdan, Howden, Isabel, 65, 116
 ———, Thomas, 65, 114,
 115, 120
 Hulbathorne, *see* Hobilthorn
 Hull, 86
 Hulson, Robert, 119
 Humble, George, 90
 Humfrey, Thomas, 113
 Hunden, Robert, 108
 Huntingdon, John Holland, Earl of,
see Exeter, Duke of
 Hyde by Winchester, Abbot and Con-
 vent of, 46
 Hyll, Henry, 117
 Innholders' Company, 53
 ——— Hall, 53, 75
 Inventories, 13, 43
 Ipswich, town of, 76
 Ireland, *see* Ulster
 ———, Lord Deputy of, Sir William
 Fitzwilliam, 44
 ———, Thomas,
 Earl of Sussex, 73
 ———, Gerald
 FitzGerald, Earl of Kildare, 80
 Irish Society, 38, 40
 Ironmonger, Ismongererowe Row, 44
 Jakes, John, 118
 James i., banquet to, 12, 13
 ———, charter of, *see* Charters
 ———, confirmation by, 31
 ———, loans to, 15, 40
 James ii., 39, 95
 ———, charter of, *see* Charters
 James ii., restoration of companies
 charters by, 31
 Jenkyns, John, 117
 Jenyns, Sir Stephen, 41, 114, 120
 Jerrold, William, 117
 John, King, chapel of, 89
 ———, house of, 88, 89
 ———, John, 108, 113
 Johnson, Robert, 115
 Jordan, John, 112
 Jowdrell, William, 109
 Juxon, Archbishop, 29
 Karrington, Robert, 51
 Kays, Keys, Gilbert, 112, 113
 Kelambe, Robert, 114, 115
 Kellowe, Henry, 114
 Kelyngham, John, 110
 Kenne, John, 109
 Kimpton, rectory of, 94
 Kildare, Elyzabeth, Countess of, 79,
 80
 ———, Gerald FitzGerald, 9th Earl of,
 80
 Knotte, John, 110
 ———, William, 111, 112
 Kyffyn, John, 112, 113
 Kyng, John, 110, 112
 Kyngeston, Sir William, 67
 Kyrkeby, John, 114, 115
 ———, William, 117
 Kyrton, Clement, 108
 ———, Stephen, 58, 118
 Lancaster, Mayor and Burgesses of, 42
 ———, Edmund, Earl of, 59, 80
 Langdon, William, 112
 ——— Hills, Layndon Hill, manor
 of, 93
 Langewith, Langwith, Elen, 112
 ———, John, 111
 Langley, Edmund, *see* York, Duke of
 ———, Richard (Clerk), 11, 12, 13,
 14, 99, 103, 104
 Latoner, Latyner, William, 111, 112
 Laud, William, *see* Canterbury
 Laycock, John, 50
 Leases, books of, 12, 19
 ———, granted after the Fire of
 London, 19
 Ledsham, Ralph, 25
 Lee, almshouses at, 96
 Lee, Ley, Edward, 118, 119, 120
 Lee, John, 112, 113
 ———, Thomas, 121*n*
 Legge, John, 110
 Leicester, town of, 76
 ———, Robert Dudley, Earl of,
 73, 80
 Leybourne, William, 19

- Lief, Simon, 109
 Lilli-burlero bulen-a-la, ballad called,
 95
 Lime Street, 58
 Lincoln, city of, 76
 Lingfield, church of, 46
 Litchfield, Thomas, 64
 Little Britain, 84
 Littleton, Sir Edward, 24
 Livery, 6, 43
 —, book of members of, 107
 —, roll of members of, 42
 Lloyd's Bank, 60, 62, 63, 90
 — coffee-house, 90
 Loans, book of, 12
 — to the Crown, 23, *see* Charles I.,
 Henry VIII., James I.
 — Commonwealth, 19
 Locok, Locokk, John, 110, 111
 Lombard Street, 60, 61, 62, 63, 85, 86,
 88, 90
 —, Grasshopper in, 62
 —, Unicorn in, 62
 —, *see* All Hallows, St.
 Edmund
 London, Michael Northbrugh, Bishop
 of, 77
 — bridge, 74
 —, city of, 96
 —, charters of, forfeited,
 30
 —, companies of, *see*
 Companies
 —, custom of, 67, 73, 85,
 92
 —, dispute with "new
 corporation," 24
 —, grant to, *see* Irish
 Society
 —, loans to the Crown
 by, 15, 40
 —, Parochial Charities
 ct, 65
 —, purchase by, 96
 —, water supply for, 88
 — Wall, 93
 Londonderry, city of, 38, 39, 40
 —, county of, 36, 40
 Lord Mayor, *see* Mayor
 Lovekyn, Adam, 45
 Loveyne, Sir Nicholas, 69
 Lowe, Gerard, 109
 —, Symon, 118, 119
 Lucar, Emanuell, 118, 119
 Ludgate, *see* St. Martin
 Lufkyn, George, 114
 Lull, George, 13
 Lyndeseye, Robert, 108
 Lynn, New England, 37
 —, town of, 76
 Lynne, Richard, 109
 Machyn, Henry, 119
 Maidstone, manor called the Weeke,
 near, 92
 Malte, John, 117, 120
 Marchall, John, 109
 —, William, 112
 Margaret, Mother, 25
 Marholm, Marham, chantry at, 63
 —, FitzWilliam almshouses at,
 63
 Mark Lane, 47
 Marsh, Robert, 27
 Materdale, John, 113
 Martyn, John, 112
 Mason, Peter, 33, 57, 109
 Master and Wardens, list of, 3, 98,
 105, 108—119
 —, petitions to, 25
 Mayor of London, *see* Chester; East-
 field; Harper; Offley; Row
 —, course taken against
 foreigners by, 25
 —, letters from, 25
 —, pageants of, 11
 Mayor's Court, Order by, 24
 — Precepts, 23
 Medbourne, Thomas, 109
 Mellyshe, Robert, 118
 "Memoriall or Ledger Booke," 8
 Merchant Adventurers, company of,
 16
 Merchant Taylors' Company, acting
 as trustees, 35
 —, con-
 firmation by James i. to, 31
 —, honor-
 ary members of, 20
 —, incor-
 poration of *see* Charters
 —, lands
 of, particulars of, 8, 17, 104, *see*
 also Leases; Plans
 —, loans
 to and by, 35, 36
 —, seal of,
 30
 —, vote of
 £10,000 for public service, 25
 Merchant Taylors' School, 12, 17, 40,
 105
 —, book re-
 lating to, 105
 —, catalogue
 of library at, 21
 —, scrapbook
 relating to, 29
 —, site of,
 68-74

- Merchant Taylors' School, writing master at, 20
 Merston, Henry, 87
 Merton, manor of, 52, 53
 ———, priors of, 52
 Merycke, William, 118, 119
 Middleton, Robert, 113
 Midilton, Thomas, 121*n*.
 Mighel, Mighell, James, 116, 117,
 Militia, assessment for, 28
 Minories, *see* Holy Trinity ; St. Clare
 Moncastre, James, 115
 Mone, Roger, 114, 115
 Money, base, 80
 Monoux, George, 88
 Moore, prebend of, 78, 93
 Moorfields, 78, 93
 More, John, 121*n*.
 Morocco Ambassador, 17
 Mortmain, *see* London, custom of
 Mosehache, William, 45
 Moulsey, East, rectory of, 94
 Mounteney, Richard, 60, 62, 63
 Much Mapleston, 35
 Munday, Anthony, survey by, 106

 Napton, church of, 69
 Nash, master, 27
 Naturalization, denization, letters of, 84
 Navarre, Henry i. of, 59
 ———, Queen of, cook to, 59
 ———, Blanche, 59
 ———, Joan, 59
 Navy, 17, 27, 54
 Nayler, Richard, 112, 113
 Nechilles, John, 116
 Nevill, Sir Ralph, *see* Westmoreland, Earl of
 Newcastle, town of, 76
 New England, 37
 ——— Company, 78
 Newfoundland Company, 78
 Newgate, charity for prisoners in, 81
 New River Company, 78
 Noden, Charles, 37
 Nordon, Northyn, Richard, 110
 Northampton, Priory of St. Andrew of, 52
 ———, Simon de St. Liz, Earl of, 52
 ———, town of, 76
 Northbrugh, Michael, *see* London, Bishop of
 Northumberland, Earl of, 19
 Northyam, church of, 66
 Norwich, city of, 76
 Norwich, pleas at, 52
 Nottingham, mayor and aldermen of, 76
 Nottingham, town of, 76
 Nowell, Alexander, Dean of St. Paul's, 35
 Nynes, Nicholas, 114

 Oaths, forms of, 6-7, 104
 Obits, 7
 Offley, Sir Thomas, 11, 118
 Oliver, John, 19
 Olyff, John, 119
 Ordinances, 6, 7, 8, 32, 104, 106
 Ordinary Courts, 22
 Orewelle, John, 108
 Orleans, Duke of (Louis xii.), 46
 ———, siege of, 71
 Osmotherlawe, Richard, 84
 Owen, Sir Henry, 88
 Oxford Brazenose College, 83
 ———, Samuel Radcliff, principal of, 84
 ———, city of, 42, 76
 ———, corporation of, 42
 ———, Castle, prisoners in, 93
 ———, Christchurch, 92
 ———, Magdalen Hall, 93
 ———, principal of, 93
 ———, St. John's College, 29, 75, 76, 82, 83, 84
 ———, Fish exhibitions, 64
 ———, St. Mary's Church, 92
 ———, University, trust for, 92, 93
 Oxfordshire, charities in, 42
 Oysters, first provided, 26

 Packership, office of, 103
 Paddington, 57
 Pagett, Robert, 117
 Palyn, George, 83
 Panell, Richard, 117
 Parker, William, 112, 113
 Parliament, 92
 ———, Army of, 24, 27
 ———, Party of, 94
 Parr, Katherine, 48
 Parrys Garden, 49, 50
 Partrich, Partriche, John, 32, 108, 110
 ———, William, 31, 32
 Payn, Robert, 108
 Pecche, John, 108
 Pecke, John, 110
 Pemberton, Hugh, 113
 Penbrigge's Inn, 58
 Penn, 59
 Penn, Penne, John, 59, 60
 ———, Richard, 59
 ———, William, 59
 Pennsylvania, 59
 Pepys, Samuel, 61, 89
 Percivall, Sir John, 60, 63, 113

- Person, William, 112
 Pestilence, the great, 92
 Petitions to the Master and Wardens,
 25
 Petyt, Thomas, 115
 Pewter, list of, 24
 Phelip, John, 112, 113
 Pickford carriers, 24
 Piers, Pirs, Stephen, 111
 Piracy proceedings, 52
 Plague, 80
 Plans, Book of, 19, 20
 Plate, 8, 14, 26, 43
 Pole, de la, estate of, 88
 Pole, Thomas, 115
 Pole, Michael de la, 86
 _____, *see* Suffolk, Earl
 of
 _____, Sir Walter de la, 87
 _____, Sir William de la, 85, 86, 89
 _____, William de la, *see* Suffolk, Duke
 of
 Polstead, Henry, 117
 Pont le Arch, William de, 75
 Pope, the, 58
 _____, Francis, 119
 Pope's Head Alley, 85-90
 _____, King John's house
 and chapel in, 88, 90
 _____, Tavern, 86, 88, 89, 90
 Porters, Corn and Salt, Fellowship of,
 see Billingsgate
 Portsmouth, Hugh de, 46
 _____, _____, Alice, widow
 of, 46
 Portman, John, 62
 Portsmouth, naturalized subject for-
 bidden to dwell in, 84
 Possell, Philip, 6, 110
 Potman, John, 113
 Poultney, Sir John, 68, 69
 Poultney's Inn, 68, 69, 70, 71, 85
 Poultry, the, 57
 Povey, Povy, John, 114
 _____, _____, Walter, 114, 120
 Prescription for a pill, 23
 Presentations, Book of, 20
 Prices of building materials, 28, 29
 _____, corn, *see* Corn
 _____, provisions, 26, 29
 _____, wines, 26
 Printers, first in London, 90
 Privy Council, arrest by warrant of,
 16
 Prockter, Mr., 26
 Prynce, John, 112
 Purcell, Henry, 95
 Pye, Thomas, 112
 Quaterly Meetings, 22
 Queldrik, Robert, 109
 Querne Moor, Forest of, 42
 Quin, James, actor, 89
 Quo Warranto, proceedings under, 30
 Radcliff, Samuel, 84
 Randell, Thomas, 114
 Rante, Roger, 77
 Ratcliffe, Thomas, *see* Sussex, Earl of
 Ravenshaw, T. W., 89
 Rawlett, Knevett, 16, 17
 Rawson, Richard, 53
 Rayle, Harry, 112
 Reading, town of, 76
 Reed, Richard, 49
 Rent, a hogshead of wine as part of,
 25
 Revolution, the, 31, 39, 94
 Reymond, Thomas, 111
 Reynold, Richard, 110
 Richard II., 31, 69, 70, 89
 _____, charter of, *see* Charters
 Richardes, Thomas, 118
 Rigeley, Rygeley, William, 118, 119
 Riverhulle, 66
 Rivers, Lord, *see* Woodville
 Robsart, Amy, 80
 Rollesley, Dame Marie, 75
 Rood Lane, 58
 Rooke, Richard, 112
 Roos of Hamelake, family of, 47
 _____, Dame Beatrice
 de, 6, 47
 Rose, manor of the, 68, 72, 86, 87
 _____, Robert, 118, 119
 Roun, John, 111
 Rowe, Sir Thomas, 11, 74, 75, 118, 119,
 120
 Royal Exchange, 90
 _____, site of, 61, 62
 Royal Society, 42
 Ruggeley, Humfrey, 115
 Rushock, manor of, 41
 Ryall, Henry de, 108
 St. Alphege, church of, 93
 St. Andrew Undershaft, parish of,
 58, 94
 St. Anne-in-the-Willows, 50
 St. Antholine, parish of, 94
 St. Augustine's, prior of, 108
 St. Bartholomew by the Exchange, or
 St. Bartholomew the Little,
 church of, 66
 St. Benetfink, parish of, 54, 65
 St. Botolph without Aldersgate, parish
 of, 84
 St. Clare, monastery of the Minorities
 of, 79
 _____, abbess of, 79

- St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, parish of, 46
 St. Edmund, King and Martyr, parish of, 90
 St. Giles-in-the-Fields, parish of, 94
 St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, church of, 75
 ———, nuns of, 74
 ———, prioress of, 75
 St. John Baptist, manor of, 38, 39 (*see also* Ulster)
 St. John's College, *see* Oxford
 St. John Walbrook, parish of, 10
 ———, church of, 59
 St. Lawrence Pountney, church of, 68
 ———, parish of, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72
 ———, College of Corpus Christi, 68
 St. Liz, *see* Northampton, Earl of
 St. Margaret, Lothbury, church of, 66
 St. Margaret Pattens, churchyard, 58
 ———, lane, 58
 St. Martin's, Ludgate, church of, 67
 ———, parish of, 67
 St. Martin Outwich, church of, 4, 25, 57, 58
 ———, advowson of, 55
 ———, parish of, 54
 ———, rector of, 56
 ———, rectory house of, 57
 St. Martin's-in-the-Vintry, parish of, 95
 St. Mary Abchurch, church of, 65
 ———, parish of, 10, 44, 46
 ———, Colechurch, church of, 44
 St. Mary-le-Bow, parish of, 44, 45
 St. Mary Overy, priory of, 75
 St. Mary Woolnoth, parish of, 63, 87
 St. Mary and St. Gabriel Fenchurch, parish of, 59
 St. Michael, Cornhill, parish of, 54, 63, 87
 St. Michael Paternoster, parish of, 53
 St. Pancras, parish of, 94
 St. Paul's Cathedral, burning of, 80
 ———, Dean of, *see* Collett; Nowell
 ———, Dean and Chapter of, 79
 St. Paul's School, founder of, 78
 St. Peter's, Cornhill, church of, Mason's chantry in, 33
 ———, parish of, 54
 St. Sepulchre Without Newgate, vicar and churchwardens of, 81, 82
 St. Thomas's Hospital, 50
 Salisbury, city of, 76
 Sall, George, 116
 Salters' Company, agreement as to tackle porters, 36, 116
 Salvage, Dame Elyzabeth, 79, 80
 Saracen's Head, *see* Bread Street; Friday Street
 Savage, Joseph, 24
 Savery, Pirs, Piers, 6, 110, 111
 Sawyer, Richard, 109
 Say, William, 10, 42
 Schools, *see* Great Crosby; Merchant Taylors'; St. Paul's; Wolverhampton
 Scotland, James iv. of, 8
 ———, war with, 49
 Scutt, Skute, John, 117, 118, 120
 Seals, 30, 44, 45, 60
 Seche, John, 109
 "Seld," *see* Tannarseld
 Seward, Henry, 108
 Sexcy, Sexsy, Dexcey, John, 115, 116
 Shakespeare's "Henry v.," 50
 ——— "Henry viii.," 72
 Shene, Sheane, House of Jesus of Bethelam of; Maurice, prior of, 53
 Sherbourne, almshouse at, 97
 Sherlock, John, 24
 Shethar, Shether, Shethor, Robert, 116, 117, 120
 Shocklache, Shokelache, Ralf, 109, 110
 Shoe Lane, 88
 Shrewsbury, town of, 76
 ———, charter to, 16
 Shyrwode, James, 113
 Sibsay, Thomas, 57, 108, 109
 Silton, John, 108
 Silverwood, Roger, 13
 Sion College, 93
 ———, almshouses of, 93
 "Sixe Basens," the, 50
 Skernyng, Richard, 110, 111
 Skevyngton, John, 115, 116
 Skinners' Company, 8, 40
 Skypwith, Sir William, 84
 ———, Dame Elizabeth, his wife, 84
 Slater, Giles, 60, 117
 Smith, Mr., 20
 Smithfield Market, 45
 Smyth, Richard, 114, 115
 Snowdon, John, 112
 Solemn League and Covenant, 20
 Somerset, John Beaufort, Earl of, 70
 Somersetshire, lands in, 75
 Southampton, town of, 76
 South Sea Bubble, 63
 Southwark, 75
 Spain, Philip, King of, 84
 Sparke, John, 119
 Speed, John, survey of London by, 90, 106
 Speight, Speyght, Thomas, 115, 116, 117

- Spencer, Spenser, John, 112, 114
 ———, goddaughter of, *see* Danby
 ———, will of, 95
 Spilman, Stephen, 45
 Stad, Captain John, 19
 Stafford, Edmund, *see* Exeter
 ———, Edward, *see* Buckingham
 ———, John, *see* Bath and Wells,
 Bishop of
 Stage carrier, circular of, 24
 Stangate, 49, 50
 Staple, Constables and Society of
 the Merchants of the, 91
 Star Chamber, proceedings in, 39
 Sterborough, *see* Cobham
 "Sterre, Le," *see* Bishopsgate Street
 Stodard, John, 112
 Stone, John, 111, 119
 Stowe, John, Chronicle by, 106
 Strawberries, first provided, 26
 Streatham, 95
 ———, parish church of, 95
 Stuarts, the, 92
 Stywardys Inne, 47
 Suckley, Sukley, Henry, 117, 120
 Sudbury, John, 90
 ———, William de, 108
 Suffolk, Henry Grey, Duke of, 79
 ———, Michael de la Pole, Earl of,
 80, 87
 ———, Alice, wife of, 87
 ———, Edmund de la Pole, Earl of,
 72, 73
 ———, William de la Pole, 1st Duke
 of, 71
 ———, Lane, 68, 72
 Surcestre, William, 109
 Sussex, Robert Ratcliffe, Earl of, 72,
 73, 80
 ———, Thomas Ratcliffe, Earl of, 73
 Sutton, Richard, 112
 ———, Thomas, 58, 109, 110
 Swan, Swanne, John, 112, 113
 Sweatyng Sicknes, 80
 Sylyard, William, 119

 Tackle porters, agreement with Salters'
 Company as to, 36
 Tailors, foreign, 25
 Talbot, Hugh, 108
 Tannarseld, house of, 44-45
 "Tarryt, La," ship called, 52
 Taxes, receipts for, 27
 Tentergrounds, *see* Moorfields
 Thames, frozen over, 80
 ———, Embankment, 93
 ———, Street, 49, 58
 Thomlyson, Edward, 57
 ———, Thomas, 119
 Thorne, Yon, 110

 Threadneedle Street, *otherwise* Brade-
 street, 65, 77
 Three Cranes Wharf, 95
 "Three Crownes," the, 50
 Tilneye, John, 108
 Tobacco, first provided, 26
 Toll, Tolle, Richard, 112, 115
 Tonge, Richard, 118, 119
 Tottenham, John de, 108
 "Tour, La," 70, 71
 Tower Hill, 79
 ———, Street, 46
 Traygos, John, 109
 Treasury Account, 8
 Tresawel, Tresawell, John, 115, 116,
 120
 Tropenell, William, 109
 Turk, Robert, 85
 Turk's Head, *see* Cornhill
 Turnbase Lane, 95
 "Twenty-four," the, 6, 7
 Tyburn, 81, 88
 Tygo, Roger, 112
 Tykenore, Richard, 108

 Ulster Plantation, 17, 36-40, 43
 Unicorn, the, *see* Lombard Street

 Vaughan, Gefferey, 116
 Vernon, Francis, 25
 ———, John, 90, 91, 92, 99
 View Book, 17
 Villiers, George, *see* Buckingham
 Vintners' Company, 36
 Virginia Company, 40

 Wade, Guy, 119
 ———, Robert, 117
 Wadyngton, Richard, 118
 Wages, 28, 29
 Walbrook, 59
 Walker, Thomas, 119
 Waller, Hannah, 25
 ———, William, 25
 Walthowe, Robert, 112
 Wardens, 6, 24, *see* Master and
 Wardens
 Waren, Warynge, Roger, 112, 113
 Warner, John, 113
 ———, Oliver, 114
 ———, Richard, 113
 Warren, William, 109
 Warwick, town of, 76
 ———, Richard Beauchamp, Earl
 of, 87, 88
 Washington, George, 37
 ———, Henry, 37
 Watermarks, ancient, 22
 Watermen's Hall, 95
 Waterton, William, 108

- Watson, Zouch, 10
 Weche, John, 112
 Wells Cathedral, 47
 Weeke, the, *see* Maidstone
 Wenlock, John, 109
 Werton, Thomas, 114
 West, Richard, 113, 120
 Westminster Abbey, 55
 ————Hall, 89
 Westmoreland, Sir Ralph Nevyll,
 Earl of, 87, 88
 Westmull, Giles de, 108
 Weston, John, 109
 Westwode, John, 6, 110
 Wethers, John, 118
 Wharton, Philip, Lord, 94, 95
 ————, Thomas, 94, 95
 Whetcombe, Peter, 77
 Whetell, Whethyll, Whetyll, Richard,
 118, 119
 Whight, Richard, 119
 White, Whyte, Ralf, 118
 ————, Dr. Thomas, 92, 93
 ————, Sir Thomas, 12, 48,
 75-77, 105, 111, 117, 120
 ————, Walter, 111
 ————, Watkyn, 112
 "White Bear," *see* Basinghall Street
 Whitefelde, John, 108
 Whitefriars, 50
 Whitelocke, William, 38
 Whittington, Sir Richard, 53
 ————College, 53
 Whityngham, Thomas, 109
 Wilford, Wylford, Henry, 110
 ————, James, 66, 114, 116,
 117
 ————, John, 48, 120
 ————, Roberte, 117
 ————, William, 116
 Wilford, Wylford, Williams, the
 younger, 117, 120
 William I., 52
 William & Mary, Act of, 31
 Wills, Book of, 12, 13, 104
 Winchester, city of, 76
 ————, *see* Hyde
 Wine, Gascoine, 25
 ————, bills for, 26
 ————trade, centre of, 51
 Winniffe, Dr. Nicholas, 96
 Winslowe, rectory of, 94
 Withipol, Wythipoll, Paul, 116, 117,
 120
 Wolberd, Nicholas, 118
 Wolfe, John, publisher, 90
 Wollaston, Sir John, 78
 Wolverhampton Grammar School,
 17, 40-41
 Woodde, Thomas, 25
 Woodville, Elizabeth, Queen of Ed-
 ward iv., 47, 48
 Woodville, Richard, Lord Rivers, 48
 Woolwich, 54
 Worcester, city of, 76
 Wright, John, 115, 116
 Wright, Richard (Clerk), 13, 103
 Writs, ancient forms of, 21
 Wylby, Thomas, 109
 Wylden, Joan, 59
 ————, William, 60
 Yakeslee, John de, 9, 54
 Yoman Tailors, 9 (*see also* Bachelors'
 Companies)
 Yonge, Walter, 118
 York, City of, 76
 ————, Edmund Langley, Earl of
 Cambridge, Duke of, 69, 70, 73

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